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Seventy-third session
Third Committee
Agenda item 28
Social development

Brazil, Chile, Japan and Russian Federation: draft resolution

Volunteering for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 70/129 of 17 December 2015, entitled "Integrating volunteering into peace and development: the plan of action for the next decade and beyond",

Welcoming the integration of volunteerism into all relevant issues considered at the United Nations, in particular the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,[1] in which it adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets, as well as the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development,[2] in which it is acknowledged that volunteers and other stakeholders will be important to mobilize and share knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources, complement the efforts of Governments and support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular in developing countries,

Recognizing that volunteerism can be a powerful and cross-cutting means of implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, that it can help to expand and mobilize constituencies and engage people in the national planning and implementation of the 2030 Agenda, and that volunteer groups can help to localize the Agenda by providing new areas of interaction between Governments and people for concrete and scalable actions,

Acknowledging that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development creates unprecedented global and national urgency to accelerate progress in the recognition, promotion, facilitation, networking and integration of volunteer action by and between Governments, communities, civil society, the private sector, academia, the media and international actors, including the United Nations system,

[1] Resolution 70/1.
[2] Resolution 69/313, annex.

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Acknowledging also the existing contribution of the organizations of the United Nations system in support of volunteering, especially the work of the United Nations Volunteers programme around the world, acknowledging further the efforts of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies to promote volunteerism throughout its global network, noting the work of other volunteer-involving organizations at the local, national, regional and global levels, and acknowledging the important role of civil society in facilitating volunteering,

Welcoming the publication by the United Nations Volunteers programme of the report entitled *2018 State of the World's Volunteerism Report: The Thread that Binds — Volunteerism and Community Resilience*, which presents new evidence on the role of volunteerism, especially through equitable and inclusive compacts between local volunteers and other communities, actors and organizations in strengthening community resilience, voice and inclusion in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

1. *Welcomes* the report of the Secretary-General on the plan of action to integrate volunteering into the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;[3]

2. *Recognizes* the importance of integrating volunteerism, as appropriate, into the planning for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,[1] and encourages the United Nations system, civil society and the private sector, in partnership with Member States, to support such efforts and promote a conducive environment for volunteerism and volunteers to enhance the sustainability of development results;

3. *Encourages* Governments, in partnership with United Nations entities, volunteer-involving organizations, the private sector, civil society, including academia, and other stakeholders, as appropriate, to integrate volunteerism into national development strategies, plans and policies, United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks or equivalent planning frameworks;

4. *Encourages* the meaningful participation and integration of all people, including youth, older persons, women, migrants, refugees, persons with disabilities, minorities and other marginalized groups, into volunteer-involving programmes and projects, with the provision of the appropriate means to leverage the full potential of volunteerism;

5. *Commends* the Member States that highlighted the contributions of volunteers to the Sustainable Development Goals in their voluntary national reviews for the high-level political forum on sustainable development held in 2016, 2017 and 2018, and encourages all Member States to increasingly cooperate with volunteer-involving and civil society organizations, to include information on the scale, contribution and impact of volunteerism in future voluntary national reviews and engage volunteers for the monitoring of progress towards achieving the Goals at the national and subnational levels and as part of wider citizen engagement;

6. *Encourages* all Member States to invest in measuring the scale and contribution of people's voluntary efforts, in line with the nineteenth International Conference of Labour Statisticians standard on volunteer work and the International Labour Organization Manual on the Measurement of Volunteer Work, and to collect and utilize high-quality data disaggregated by sex, age and disability to support and integrate volunteerism into national strategies and to measure its impact on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

[3] A/73/254.

7. *Commends* all volunteers globally — formal, informal, community, national, international, online, youth and older volunteers — for their contributions to the delivery of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

8. *Requests* Member States and the United Nations system to work together with volunteer-involving organizations, including from civil society, to support efforts to enhance the protection, security and well-being of volunteers, calls upon States to create and maintain, in law and in practice, a safe and enabling environment for volunteers, and encourages the adoption of good practices in the promotion, facilitation and, where applicable, management of volunteerism;

9. *Reaffirms* the institutional arrangements to implement the plan of action to integrate volunteering into the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which are consistent with and complement existing global review mechanisms on the Sustainable Development Goals and build upon and are complemented by independent forums and processes that maximize the participation, voice and contributions of volunteers, and, in particular:

(a) Encourages Member States to continue to work with national and local partners to prepare an analysis of volunteering at the national level before the end of 2018;

(b) Welcomes that national-level analysis will be inputs for regional consultations on volunteering in 2019, and requests that these regional consultations be held under the auspices of the regional commissions of the United Nations in the context of the regional forums on sustainable development, providing an opportunity for Member States and partners to discuss evidence and approaches, identify opportunities for addressing knowledge gaps and ensure, among other things, that national and regional inputs into the high-level political forum on sustainable development take account of volunteer contributions to the 2030 Agenda;

(c) Encourages civil society, academia and the private sector, and especially volunteer-involving organizations, to use all existing forums and processes, in accordance with their respective rules and mandates, to increase consultations on trends, evidence and approaches on volunteer contributions to the 2030 agenda and the plan of action;

(d) Requests the United Nations Volunteers programme, and invites the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, to jointly organize the global technical meeting to be held in 2020 on the theme "Reimagining volunteerism for the 2030 Agenda", building upon the foundations provided by the processes highlighted above, to further strengthen the engagement and contributions of volunteers with regard to the 2030 Agenda, and requests that this meeting be held as a special event on the margins of the high-level political forum on sustainable development in 2020;

10. *Recognizes* the United Nations Volunteers programme as the appropriate United Nations entity to support the implementation of the plan of action, and expects the programme to coordinate the work to consolidate and disseminate good practices and lessons learned, promote successful volunteer actions and ensure that the differentiated impact of volunteers on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is documented as part of regular national policy, planning and implementation practices;

11. *Also recognizes* the role of information and communications technologies in expanding innovative forms of volunteering, and encourages Governments, the private sector, civil society and other stakeholders to support online volunteering, including United Nations online volunteering that provides inclusive technology-enabled global platforms;

12. *Further recognizes* the Special Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Volunteers as the resource enabling the United Nations Volunteers programme to support the implementation of the plan of action, as well as develop initiatives that embed the values of volunteerism in the work of Governments and the United Nations system, and encourages Member States in a position to do so to enhance their contributions to the Fund, thereby ensuring continuing activities;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its seventy-sixth session on the implementation of the present resolution, including the plan of action to integrate volunteering into the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, under the item entitled "Social development".

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Seventy-third session
Third Committee
Agenda item 28 (c)
Social development: literacy for life: shaping future agendas

Chile, Costa Rica, Cyprus, Ecuador, Hungary, Japan, Mongolia and Poland: draft resolution

Literacy for life: shaping future agendas

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 56/116 of 19 December 2001, by which it proclaimed the 10 year period beginning on 1 January 2003 the United Nations Literacy Decade, its resolution 57/166 of 18 December 2002, in which it welcomed the International Plan of Action for the United Nations Literacy Decade,[1] and its resolutions 59/149 of 20 December 2004, 61/140 of 19 December 2006, 63/154 of 18 December 2008, 65/183 of 21 December 2010, 68/132 of 18 December 2013, 69/141 of 18 December 2014 and 71/166 of 19 December 2016,

Recalling also the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,[2] which includes Sustainable Development Goal 4 on ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education and promoting lifelong learning opportunities for all, with a specific target on ensuring that all youth and a substantial proportion of adults, both men and women, achieve literacy and numeracy by 2030,

Convinced that literacy is crucial to the acquisition by every child, young person and adult of the essential life skills that will enable them to address the challenges that they may face in life and represents an essential condition of lifelong learning, which is an indispensable means for effective participation in the knowledge societies and economies of the twenty-first century, and to promote inclusive and equitable societies,

Reaffirming the right of indigenous peoples to have non-discriminatory access to all levels and forms of education provided by States, and recognizing the importance of effective measures to promote access for indigenous individuals, in particular children, to education in their own language, whenever possible, as addressed in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples,[3]

[1] See A/57/218 and A/57/218/Corr.1.
[2] Resolution 70/1.
[3] Resolution 61/295, annex.

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Deeply concerned that, according to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, 750 million adults, two thirds of whom are women, lack basic literacy skills, that more than 617 million children and adolescents are not achieving minimum proficiency levels in reading and mathematics and that 262 million children, adolescents and youth worldwide (or 1 in 5) are out of school — a figure that has barely changed over the past five years,[4]

Recognizing that substantial and efficiently spent investments are needed to improve the quality of education in order to enable millions of people to acquire literacy skills for decent work,

Recognizing also that literacy is a foundation for lifelong learning, a building block for achieving human rights and fundamental freedoms and a driver of sustainable development and that the United Nations Literacy Decade (2003–2012) had a catalytic effect as a global framework for sustained and focused efforts for the promotion of literacy and literate environments,

Recalling the International Conference on Girls' and Women's Literacy and Education: Foundations for Sustainable Development, held in Dhaka and co-hosted by the Government of Bangladesh and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, in support of the Global Education First Initiative and on the occasion of International Literacy Day, on 8 September 2014, and taking note with appreciation of the adoption of the Dhaka Declaration,

Affirming that the realization of the right to education, especially for girls, contributes to the promotion of human rights, gender equality, the empowerment of women and the eradication of poverty, as well as to development,

Recognizing the importance of continuing to implement national and subnational programmes and measures to eliminate illiteracy worldwide as reflected in the Dakar Framework for Action, adopted on 28 April 2000 at the World Education Forum,[5] consistent with Goal 4 of the 2030 Agenda, and in this regard recognizing also the important contribution of North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation through, inter alia, innovative pedagogical methods in literacy,

Deeply concerned about the persistence of the gender gap in education, which is reflected by the fact that, according to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, nearly two thirds of the world's non-literate adults are women,

Concerned that, according to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, one third of the children not attending school are children with disabilities and that the literacy rate among adults with disabilities is as low as 3 per cent in some countries,

Deeply concerned about the impact of disrupted educational services in humanitarian emergencies on efforts to promote literacy skills, especially for all children and young people,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Literacy for life: shaping future agendas and education for democracy";[4]

2. *Commends* the efforts made by Member States, their development partners, the international donor community, the private sector, civil society and the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, including the lead organization of the United Nations Literacy Decade, the United Nations

[4] See A/73/292.

[5] See United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, *Final Report of the World Education Forum, Dakar, Senegal, 26–28 April 2000* (Paris, 2000).

Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, in promoting enjoyment of the right to education, including by making progress on the five strategic axes of action for the period following the Decade;

3. *Calls upon* Governments to scale up literacy programmes for children, youth and adults, including older persons, with particular attention to those who are vulnerable or marginalized, to foster innovative delivery of literacy services, including through technology and a strengthened institutional network, to promote an intersectoral approach by linking literacy learning with multiple sectors to address diverse learning needs, such as through relevant and inclusive educational resources in different languages, to establish multi-stakeholder partnerships with the active participation of civil society and the private sector, to improve distance and digital learning resources and to develop a data-collection mechanism to assess levels of literacy, so as to encourage the integration of literacy learning into vocational training and health education to promote sustainable development;

4. *Encourages* Member States, United Nations organizations, multilateral and bilateral donors, regional organizations, civil society, academia and the private sector to sustain their collective efforts for the promotion of literacy and literate environments and to contribute to shaping the Global Alliance for Literacy within the framework of lifelong learning into an effective platform for synergistic action at the global, regional, national and community levels;

5. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the International Commission on Financing Global Education Opportunity, and calls upon Member States and other stakeholders to consider implementing the recommendations contained therein;

6. *Urges* international development partners and Governments to ensure that funds mobilized by and channelled through existing international financing mechanisms for education also explicitly target and benefit youth and adult literacy;

7. *Calls upon* States, and invites other relevant stakeholders, to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,[2] including all literacy-related Sustainable Development Goals and targets;

8. *Invites* the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, as the specialized United Nations agency for education, to continue its mandated role to lead and coordinate the Education 2030 agenda, in particular through the Sustainable Development Goal Education 2030 Steering Committee, as an inclusive global multi-stakeholder consultation and coordination mechanism for education in the 2030 Agenda in accordance with the 2030 Agenda follow-up and review process;

9. *Requests* the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to continue its coordinating and catalysing role through the implementation of the recommendations of the Global Alliance for Literacy and by continuing to provide support to Member States, in collaboration with partners, in enhancing capacities for policy formulation, programme implementation, monitoring and evaluation, as well as sharing information and knowledge on policies, programmes and progress in the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goal targets connected with literacy, especially target 4.1 on reading skills in primary and lower secondary school (including in indigenous languages) and target 4.6 on youth and adult literacy, and creating synergies of action between the Alliance and other initiatives, including its Global Partnership for Girls' and Women's Education and Global Network of Learning Cities;

10. *Encourages* efforts to provide quality education in safe learning environments for all, especially for boys, girls and youth, in humanitarian emergencies to contribute to a smooth transition from relief to development;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in cooperation with the Director General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-fifth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution;

12. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-fifth session, under the item entitled "Social development", the sub-item entitled "Literacy for life: shaping future agendas".

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Seventy-third session
Third Committee
Agenda item 109
Crime prevention and criminal justice

Colombia: draft resolution

Preventing and combating corrupt practices and the transfer of proceeds of corruption, facilitating asset recovery and returning such assets to legitimate owners, in accordance with the United Nations Convention against Corruption

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 54/205 of 22 December 1999, 55/61 of 4 December 2000, 55/188 of 20 December 2000, 56/186 of 21 December 2001 and 57/244 of 20 December 2002, and recalling also its resolutions 58/205 of 23 December 2003, 59/242 of 22 December 2004, 60/207 of 22 December 2005, 61/209 of 20 December 2006, 62/202 of 19 December 2007, 63/226 of 19 December 2008, 64/237 of 24 December 2009, 65/169 of 20 December 2010, 67/189 and 67/192 of 20 December 2012, 68/195 of 18 December 2013, 69/199 of 18 December 2014 and 71/208 of 19 December 2016 and all relevant Human Rights Council resolutions, including resolutions 23/9 of 13 June 2013[1] and 29/11 of 2 July 2015,[2]

Welcoming the entry into force on 14 December 2005 of the United Nations Convention against Corruption,[3] which is the most comprehensive and universal instrument on corruption, and recognizing the need to continue to promote its ratification or accession thereto and its full and effective implementation,

Stressing the need for States parties to the Convention to give full effect to the resolutions of the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption,

Bearing in mind the need to promote and strengthen measures to prevent and combat corruption more efficiently and effectively, that the return of assets is one of the main objectives, an integral part and a fundamental principle of the Convention,

[1] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 53* (A/68/53), chap. V, sect. A.
[2] Ibid., *Seventieth Session, Supplement No. 53* (A/70/53), chap. V, sect. A.
[3] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2349, No. 42146.

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and recalling article 51 of the Convention, under which States parties shall afford one another the widest measure of cooperation and assistance with regard to asset return,

Recognizing that fighting corruption at all levels and in all its forms is a priority and that corruption is a serious barrier to effective resource mobilization and allocation and diverts resources away from activities that are vital for poverty eradication and sustainable development,

Reaffirming its resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", in which it adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets, its commitment to working tirelessly for the full implementation of the Agenda by 2030, its recognition that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, its commitment to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions — economic, social and environmental — in a balanced and integrated manner and to building upon the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals and seeking to address their unfinished business,

Reaffirming also its resolution 69/313 of 27 July 2015 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, which is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, supports and complements it, helps to contextualize its means of implementation targets with concrete policies and actions, and reaffirms the strong political commitment to address the challenge of financing and creating an enabling environment at all levels for sustainable development in the spirit of global partnership and solidarity,

Welcoming, as part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the commitment to promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels,

Reaffirming its resolution 70/174 of 17 December 2015 on the Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, and welcoming the adoption, at the high-level segment of the Thirteenth Congress, of the Doha Declaration on Integrating Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice into the Wider United Nations Agenda to Address Social and Economic Challenges and to Promote the Rule of Law at the National and International Levels, and Public Participation,[4] through which States committed to implement effective measures to detect, prevent and counter corruption, as well as the transfer abroad and laundering of assets derived from corruption, and to strengthen international cooperation and assistance to Member States in the identification, freezing or seizure of such assets, as well as in their recovery and return, in accordance with the United Nations Convention against Corruption, in particular chapter V thereof, and in this regard to continue to discuss innovative modalities to improve mutual legal assistance in order to speed up asset recovery proceedings and render them more successful, while also drawing on the experience and knowledge built through the implementation of the Stolen Asset Recovery Initiative of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the World Bank,

Recognizing that education plays a fundamental role in the prevention of and fight against corruption, inasmuch as it makes corrupt behaviour socially unacceptable,

[4] Resolution 70/174, annex.

Reaffirming the importance of respect for human rights, the rule of law at the national and international levels, the proper management of public affairs and democracy in the fight against corruption,

Acknowledging that good governance, at the national and international levels, has a role in the prevention of and fight against corruption,

Realizing that the fight against corruption at all levels, including by facilitating international cooperation to achieve the purposes enshrined in the Convention, including on asset recovery and return, plays an important role in the promotion and protection of all human rights and in the process of creating an environment conducive to their full enjoyment and realization,

Recognizing that supportive national legal systems are essential in preventing and combating corrupt practices, facilitating asset recovery and returning the proceeds of corruption to legitimate owners,

Recalling that the purposes of the Convention, as set out in article 1, are to promote and strengthen measures to prevent and combat corruption more efficiently and effectively, to promote, facilitate and support international cooperation and technical assistance in the prevention of and fight against corruption, including in asset recovery, and to promote the integrity, accountability and proper management of public affairs and public property,

Recalling also article 43, paragraph 1, of the Convention, in which States parties are encouraged, where appropriate and consistent with their domestic legal systems, to consider assisting each other in investigations of and proceedings in civil and administrative matters relating to corruption,

Welcoming the commitment of States parties to the Convention, in particular their determination to give effect to the obligations set out in chapter V of the Convention in order to prevent, detect, deter and recover in a more effective manner the international transfer of proceeds of crime and to strengthen international cooperation in asset recovery,

Recognizing that those who engage in corrupt acts, whether natural or legal persons, should be held accountable and prosecuted by their domestic authorities, consistent with domestic law and the requirements of the Convention, and that all appropriate efforts should be made to conduct a financial investigation into assets illegally acquired by them and to recover such assets through domestic confiscation proceedings, international cooperation for purposes of confiscation or appropriate direct recovery measures,

Acknowledging that the fight against all forms of corruption requires comprehensive anti-corruption frameworks and strong institutions at all levels, including at the local and international levels, able to undertake efficient preventive and law enforcement measures in accordance with the Convention, in particular chapters II and III, and recognizing the strategic role of a holistic approach to countering corruption, money-laundering and transnational organized crime,

Recognizing that the success of the Mechanism for the Review of Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption depends on the full commitment and constructive engagement of all States parties to the Convention in a progressive and comprehensive process, and recalling in that regard resolution 3/1 of 13 November 2009 of the Conference of the States Parties to the Convention,[5] including the terms of reference of the Mechanism contained in the annex to that

[5] See CAC/COSP/2009/15, sect. I.A.

resolution, decision 5/1 of 29 November 2013[6] and resolution 6/1 of 6 November 2015[7] of the Conference of the States Parties,

Noting with appreciation the commitment of States parties to the Convention to the first review cycle process of the Mechanism, both as countries under review and as reviewing States, as well as the support provided by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in this regard,

Recognizing the launch of the second review cycle of the Mechanism pursuant to paragraph 13 of the terms of reference of the Mechanism and consistent with resolution 6/1 of the Conference of the States Parties to the Convention,

Bearing in mind that the prevention and eradication of corruption is a responsibility of all States and that they must cooperate with one another, with the support and involvement of individuals and groups outside the public sector, such as civil society, non-governmental organizations, the private sector, academia and community-based organizations, if their efforts in this area are to be effective,

Reaffirming that strengthening international cooperation among law enforcement and other relevant agencies is a global imperative in order to effectively prevent and combat transnational corruption,

Affirming the importance of promoting dialogue among central authorities and practitioners prior to the submission of mutual legal assistance requests, which are particularly valuable in investigations of corruption, and coordination and cooperation on asset recovery through inter-agency networks, including regional networks, where appropriate,

Reaffirming its concern about the laundering and transfer of stolen assets and proceeds of corruption, and stressing the need to address this concern in accordance with the Convention,

Expressing concern over illicit financial flows, and related tax evasion, corruption and money-laundering, and their negative impact on the world economy, and inviting Member States to consider developing strategies or policies to combat those practices and to curb the harmful effects of jurisdictions and territories that are uncooperative in tax matters and to strive to eliminate safe havens that create incentives for the transfer abroad of stolen assets and for illicit financial flows,

Noting the efforts made by all States parties to the Convention in tracing, freezing and recovering their stolen assets, and underlining the need to redouble efforts to assist in the recovery of those assets in order to preserve stability and sustainable development,

Recognizing that States continue to face challenges in recovering assets owing to differences between legal systems, the complexity of multijurisdictional investigations and prosecutions, the limited implementation of effective domestic tools such as non-conviction-based forfeiture for asset recovery, as well as other administrative or civil procedures leading to confiscation, lack of familiarity with the mutual legal assistance procedures of other States and difficulties in identifying the flow of corruption proceeds, and noting the particular challenges posed in recovering the proceeds of corruption in cases involving individuals who are or have been entrusted with prominent public functions, as well as their family members and close associates,

Concerned about the difficulties, particularly the legal and practical difficulties, that both requested and requesting States face in asset recovery, taking into account

[6] See CAC/COSP/2013/18, sect. I.B.

[7] See CAC/COSP/2015/10, sect. I.

the particular importance of the recovery of stolen assets for sustainable development and stability, and noting the difficulty of providing information establishing a link between proceeds of corruption in the requested State and the crime committed in the requesting State, which in many cases can be difficult to prove,

Recognizing the common difficulties experienced by States parties to the Convention in establishing a nexus between identified assets and the crime from which such assets are derived, and emphasizing the critical importance of effective domestic investigative efforts and international cooperation to overcome such difficulties,

Recognizing also the critical importance of effective international cooperation in efforts to combat corruption, particularly with respect to offences specified in the Convention with a transnational element, and encouraging continued cooperation by States parties, consistent with the requirements of the Convention, in all efforts to investigate and prosecute natural and legal persons, including the use of other legal mechanisms, where appropriate, for offences specified in the Convention and to recover assets related to such offences, consistent with chapter V of the Convention,

Calling upon all States parties to the Convention and, in particular, requested and requesting States, to cooperate to recover the proceeds of corruption and demonstrate strong commitment to ensure the return or disposal of such proceeds in accordance with article 57 of the Convention,

Noting the responsibility of requesting and requested States parties to cooperate to ensure that a greater proportion of the proceeds emanating from corruption are recovered, returned or otherwise disposed of in accordance with the provisions of the Convention,

Concerned that some persons accused of crimes of corruption have managed to escape justice and thus have eluded the legal consequences of their actions and have been successful in hiding their assets,

Taking into account the need to hold corrupt officials accountable by depriving them of the illicit profits and proceeds of their crimes,

Acknowledging the vital importance of ensuring the independence and effectiveness of authorities charged with investigating and prosecuting crimes of corruption and of recovering the proceeds of such crimes by several means, such as establishing the necessary legal framework and allocating the necessary resources,

Acknowledging also the fundamental principles of due process of law in criminal proceedings and in civil or administrative proceedings to adjudicate property rights,

Reiterating its concern about the seriousness of problems and threats posed by corruption to the stability and security of societies, undermining the institutions and the values of democracy, ethical values and justice and jeopardizing sustainable development and the rule of law, in particular when an inadequate national and international response leads to impunity,

Concerned about the negative impact of widespread corruption on the enjoyment of human rights, recognizing that corruption constitutes one of the obstacles to the effective promotion and protection of human rights, as well as to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, and recognizing also that corruption may disproportionately affect the most disadvantaged individuals of society,

Noting with appreciation the ongoing efforts by regional organizations and forums to strengthen cooperation in combating corruption, which aim, inter alia, to

ensure openness and transparency, combat domestic and foreign bribery, tackle corruption in high-risk sectors, strengthen international cooperation and promote public integrity and transparency in the fight against corruption, which fuels illicit trade and insecurity and is a tremendous barrier to economic growth and the safety of citizens,

Noting with appreciation also the efforts made by those States that have established national coordination mechanisms between, inter alia, the different levels of their Governments and other actors, such as civil society organizations, the private sector and academia, to prevent and combat corruption,

Noting with appreciation further the efforts of regional organizations and forums to combat corruption, including, inter alia, the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Course of Action on Fighting Corruption and Ensuring Transparency and the Santiago Commitment to Fight Corruption and Ensure Transparency, and the Group of 20 Anti-Corruption Action Plan, the Group of 20 Anti-Corruption Open Data Principles, the Saint Petersburg Development Strategy, the non-binding Guiding Principles on Enforcement of the Foreign Bribery Offence, the Guiding Principles to Combat Solicitation, the Asset Recovery Principles, the asset recovery country profiles and the Asset Recovery Guides,

Noting with appreciation the work of other initiatives in the field of asset recovery, such as the first Global Forum on Asset Recovery, held in Washington, D.C., from 4 to 6 December 2017, and welcoming their efforts to enhance cooperation between requesting and requested States,

Noting with appreciation also the guidelines for the efficient recovery of stolen assets, the step-by-step guide and online tool developed through the Lausanne process initiative by 30 States parties to the Convention in close collaboration with the International Centre for Asset Recovery and the Stolen Asset Recovery Initiative of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the World Bank, and aimed at developing effective and coordinated approaches to asset recovery for practitioners from requesting and requested States,

Welcoming resolution 6/3 of 6 November 2015 on fostering effective asset recovery[7] and resolution 6/4 of 6 November 2015 on enhancing the use of civil and administrative proceedings against corruption, including through international cooperation, in the framework of the United Nations Convention against Corruption,[7] adopted by the Conference of the States Parties to the Convention at its sixth session, held in Saint Petersburg, Russian Federation, from 2 to 6 November 2015,

1. *Welcomes* the holding of the seventh session of the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption in Vienna from 6 to 10 November 2017, and also welcomes its report,[8] which reflects the outcomes and contributions of the Conference of the States Parties to promoting the implementation of the Convention;

2. *Condemns* corruption at all levels and in all its forms, including bribery, as well as the laundering of proceeds of corruption and other forms of economic crime;

3. *Expresses concern* about the magnitude of corruption at all levels, including the scale of stolen assets and proceeds of corruption, and in this regard reiterates its commitment to preventing and combating corrupt practices at all levels, in accordance with the United Nations Convention against Corruption;[3]

[8] CAC/COSP/2017/14.

4. *Welcomes* the fact that 186 States parties have already ratified or acceded to the Convention, thus making it an instrument enjoying a status very close to universal adherence, and in this regard urges all Member States and competent regional economic integration organizations, within the limits of their competence, that have not yet done so to consider ratifying or acceding to the Convention as a matter of priority, and urges all States parties to take appropriate measures to ensure its full and effective implementation;

5. *Encourages* States parties to the Convention to review its implementation and commit to making it an effective instrument to deter, detect, prevent and counter corruption and bribery, prosecute those involved in corrupt activities and encourage the international community to develop good practices on asset return, and, furthermore, to strive to eliminate safe havens that create incentives for transfer abroad of stolen assets and for illicit financial flows;

6. *Notes with appreciation* the high-level debate of the General Assembly marking the fifteenth anniversary of the adoption of the Convention, held in New York on 23 May 2018;

7. *Also notes with appreciation* the work carried out under the Mechanism for the Review of Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption and by the Implementation Review Group, and urges Member States to continue to support this work and make every possible effort to provide comprehensive information and adhere to the timelines for review as contained in the guidelines for governmental experts and the secretariat in the conduct of country reviews;[9]

8. *Welcomes* the progress made in the first review cycle of the Mechanism and the efforts made by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in support of the Mechanism, and encourages the use of the lessons learned during the first review cycle in order to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the Mechanism, as well as the implementation of the Convention;

9. *Strongly encourages* States parties to the Convention to continue to engage actively in the second review cycle of the Mechanism on chapter II, Preventive measures, and chapter V, Asset recovery, of the Convention, and invites them to provide appropriate extrabudgetary resources to contribute to the financing of the second review cycle;

10. *Notes with appreciation* the work of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Groups on Asset Recovery, on the Prevention of Corruption and on Review of the Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption and the open-ended intergovernmental expert meeting to enhance international cooperation under the United Nations Convention against Corruption, and encourages States parties to the Convention to support the work of all of these subsidiary bodies of the Conference of the States Parties to the Convention;

11. *Calls upon* States parties to the Convention to continue and to reinforce the effective implementation of the preventive measures outlined in chapter II of the Convention and in the resolutions of the Conference of the States Parties to the Convention;

12. *Encourages* all States parties to the Convention to strengthen their commitment to effective national action and international cooperation to give full effect to chapter V of the Convention and to contribute effectively to the recovery of the proceeds of corruption;

[9] CAC/COSP/IRG/2010/7, annex I.

13. *Urges* Member States to combat and penalize corruption in all its forms, as well as the laundering of proceeds of corruption, to prevent the acquisition, transfer and laundering of proceeds of corruption and to work for the prompt recovery of such assets in accordance with the principles of the Convention, including chapter V;

14. *Calls upon* States parties to the Convention to make available online, including by considering the use of open data formats, as much government information as feasible, subject to relevant limitations in domestic law, in relation to the implementation of the Convention, in order to enable greater transparency, accountability and efficiency;

15. *Welcomes* the decision of the Conference of the States Parties to the Convention to call upon States parties to give particular and timely consideration to the execution of international mutual legal assistance requests that need urgent action, as well as other requesting States, and to ensure that the competent authorities of requested States have adequate resources to execute requests, taking into account the particular importance of the recovery of these assets for sustainable development and stability;[10]

16. *Urges* States parties that have yet to designate a central authority for international cooperation in accordance with the Convention to do so, and to appoint focal points for the purposes of international cooperation and mutual legal assistance in asset recovery, and, where appropriate, encourages States parties to make full use of the network of focal points of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on Asset Recovery to facilitate cooperation and the implementation of the Convention, as well as the Global Focal Point Network on Asset Recovery, supported by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime through the Stolen Asset Recovery Initiative and by the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL);

17. *Encourages* States parties to the Convention to use and promote informal channels of communication and the possibility of spontaneous exchange of information, as permitted by domestic law, in particular prior to making formal requests for mutual legal assistance, by, inter alia, designating officials or institutions, as appropriate, with technical expertise in international cooperation in asset recovery to assist their counterparts in effectively meeting requirements for mutual legal assistance;

18. *Urges* States parties to the Convention to remove barriers to asset recovery, including by simplifying their legal procedures and preventing abuse of those procedures, and also encourages States parties to limit, where appropriate, domestic legal immunities, in accordance with their legal systems and constitutional principles;

19. *Encourages* States parties to the Convention to give full effect to the resolutions, including those on asset recovery, of the Conference of the States Parties to the Convention;

20. *Urges* States parties to the Convention to afford one another the widest possible cooperation and assistance in the identification and recovery of stolen assets and proceeds of corruption and to give particular and timely consideration to the execution of requests for international mutual legal assistance, in accordance with the Convention, and to afford one another the widest possible cooperation and assistance in the extradition of individuals accused of the predicate offences, in accordance with their obligations under the Convention, including article 44;

21. *Also urges* States parties to the Convention to ensure that procedures for international cooperation allow for the seizure and/or restraint of assets for a time period sufficient to preserve those assets in full, pending confiscation proceedings in

[10] CAC/COSP/2013/18, sect. I.A, resolution 5/3, para. 6.

another State, to ensure that there are adequate mechanisms in place to manage and preserve the value and condition of assets pending the conclusion of confiscation proceedings in another State, and to allow or expand cooperation in the enforcement of foreign seizure and freezing orders and confiscation judgments, including through measures to permit recognition of non-conviction-based seizure and freezing orders and confiscation judgments, where possible;

22. *Further urges* States parties to the Convention to take a proactive approach to international cooperation in asset recovery by making full use of the mechanisms provided for in chapter V of the Convention, including initiating requests for assistance, making spontaneous and prompt disclosures of information on proceeds of offences to other States parties and considering making requests for notifications, in accordance with article 52, paragraph 2 (b), of the Convention, and, where appropriate, implementing measures to permit the recognition of non-conviction-based forfeiture judgments;

23. *Urges* States parties to the Convention to ensure that reliable, accurate and up-to-date beneficial ownership information on companies is accessible to law enforcement agencies and other relevant authorities, including, as appropriate, financial intelligence units and tax administrations, thus facilitating the investigation process and execution of requests;

24. *Encourages* States parties to the Convention to cooperate in order to implement the measures necessary to enable them to obtain reliable information on beneficial ownership of companies, legal structures or other complex legal mechanisms, including trusts and holdings, used to commit crimes of corruption or to hide and transfer proceeds;

25. *Urges* Member States, where appropriate and consistent with their national legal systems, to provide each other with the widest possible assistance in investigations of and proceedings in civil and administrative matters relating to corruption offences, committed by natural or legal persons, including, if appropriate, through mutual legal assistance, for the detection of corruption offences, the identification, freezing and confiscation of assets, and the other purposes established in article 46, paragraph 3, of the Convention;

26. *Calls upon* Member States to take the necessary measures, in accordance with their domestic law, to permit another Member State to initiate civil action in their courts to establish title to or ownership of property acquired through the commission of corruption offences by natural or legal persons, as well as to permit their courts to recognize a civil claim of another Member State for payment of compensation or damages caused by corruption offences and for ownership of confiscated property acquired through the commission of such offences;

27. *Encourages* Member States to prevent and combat all forms of corruption by increasing transparency, integrity, accountability and efficiency in the public and private sectors, and recognizes in this regard the need to prevent impunity by prosecuting corrupt officials and those who corrupt them and to cooperate in their extradition, in accordance with the obligations under the Convention;

28. *Stresses* the need for transparency in financial institutions, invites Member States to work on the identification and tracking of financial flows linked to corruption, the freezing or seizing of assets derived from corruption and the return of such assets, in accordance with the Convention, and encourages the promotion of human and institutional capacity-building in that regard;

29. *Urges* States parties to the Convention to give timely consideration to mutual legal assistance requests relating to the identification, freezing, tracing and/or recovery of proceeds of corruption and to respond effectively to requests for exchange

of information related to proceeds of crime, property, equipment or other instruments referred to in article 31 of the Convention situated in the territory of the requested State party, in accordance with the provisions of the Convention, including article 40;

30. *Urges* States, in accordance with the fundamental principles of their legal systems, to develop and implement or maintain effective, coordinated anti-corruption policies that promote the participation of society and reflect the principles of the rule of law, proper management of public affairs and public property, integrity, transparency and accountability, and in this respect encourages legal professionals and non-governmental organizations, where appropriate, to assist businesses, in particular small and medium-sized businesses, to develop codes of conduct and compliance programmes for preventing bribery and corruption and promoting integrity;

31. *Invites* States parties to the Convention to recognize the importance of the involvement of young people and children as key actors in strengthening ethical behaviour, beginning with the identification and adoption of values, principles and actions that make it possible to build a fair and corruption-free society, in accordance with the Convention;

32. *Welcomes* the efforts of Member States that have enacted laws and taken other positive measures in the fight against corruption in all its forms, and in this regard encourages Member States that have not yet done so to enact such laws and to implement effective measures at the national level, in accordance with the Convention;

33. *Notes* the establishment by States of financial intelligence units, and encourages States that have not yet done so to consider establishing such units in accordance with article 58 of the Convention;

34. *Reaffirms* the need for Member States to take measures to prevent the transfer abroad and laundering of assets derived from corruption, including to prevent the financial institutions in both countries of origin and countries of destination from being used to transfer or receive illicit funds, as well as to assist in their recovery and to return such assets to the requesting State, in accordance with the Convention;

35. *Calls upon* Member States to continue to work with all stakeholders in international and domestic financial markets to deny safe haven to assets acquired illicitly by individuals engaged in corruption, to deny entry and safe haven to corrupt officials and those who corrupt them and to enhance international collaboration in the investigation and prosecution of corruption offences, as well as in the recovery of proceeds of corruption;

36. *Urges* all Member States to abide by the principles of proper management of public affairs and public property, fairness, responsibility and equality before the law and the need to safeguard integrity and to foster a culture of transparency, accountability and rejection of corruption, in accordance with the Convention;

37. *Invites* Member States to make every effort to prevent and counter corruption and to implement measures aimed at enhancing transparency in public administration and promoting the integrity and accountability of their criminal justice systems, in accordance with the Convention;

38. *Calls for* further international cooperation, inter alia, through the United Nations system, in support of national, subregional and regional efforts to prevent and combat corrupt practices and the transfer and laundering of proceeds of corruption, in accordance with the principles of the Convention, and in this regard encourages close and enhanced coordination, cooperation and synergies between anti-corruption agencies, law enforcement agencies and financial intelligence units;

39. *Also calls for* closer and active collaboration among interested States parties to the Convention, regional organizations and the United Nations system, including international financial institutions, in identifying commendable practices in effective and coordinated approaches to asset recovery consistent with chapter V of the Convention;

40. *Stresses* the need for further cooperation and coordination among the different international, regional and subregional organizations and initiatives mandated to prevent and combat corruption;

41. *Urges* Member States to take appropriate measures, within their means and in accordance with fundamental principles of their national law, to promote the active participation of individuals and groups outside the public sector, such as civil society, non-governmental organizations and community-based organizations, the private sector and academia, in the prevention of and fight against corruption and to raise public awareness, through, inter alia, media campaigns, regarding the existence, causes and gravity of and the threat posed by corruption;

42. *Recalls* article 63, paragraph 4 (c), of the Convention, in which it is stated, inter alia, that the Conference of the States Parties to the Convention shall agree upon activities, procedures and methods of work to achieve the objectives set forth in paragraph 1 of that article, including by cooperating with relevant international and regional organizations and mechanisms and non-governmental organizations, and in this regard invites the Conference of the States Parties to give due consideration to the implementation of the above-mentioned provision;

43. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to provide the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime with the resources necessary to enable it to promote, in an effective manner, the implementation of the Convention and to discharge its functions as the secretariat of the Conference of the States Parties to the Convention, and also requests the Secretary-General to ensure that the Mechanism for the Review of Implementation of the Convention is adequately funded, consistent with the resolution adopted by the Conference of the States Parties at its sixth session;[7]

44. *Reiterates its call upon* the private sector, at both the international and the national levels, including small and large companies and transnational corporations, to remain fully engaged in the fight against corruption, notes in this context the role that the United Nations Global Compact can play in fighting corruption and promoting transparency, emphasizes the need for all relevant stakeholders, including within the United Nations system, as appropriate, to continue to promote corporate responsibility and accountability, and in this regard welcomes the adoption on 29 November 2013 of resolution 5/6 on the private sector[11] and the adoption on 6 November 2015 of resolution 6/5, the Saint Petersburg statement on promoting public-private partnership in the prevention of and fight against corruption,[7] by the Conference of the States Parties to the Convention;

45. *Recognizes* the important role of business and public-private partnerships in promoting measures to fight corruption, especially measures that support the promotion of ethical business practices in interactions between government, business and other stakeholders;

46. *Encourages* Member States to implement and raise awareness regarding effective anti-corruption education programmes;

47. *Urges* the international community to provide, inter alia, technical assistance to support national efforts to strengthen human and institutional capacity aimed at preventing and combating corrupt practices and the transfer of proceeds of

[11] See CAC/COSP/2013/18, sect. I.A.

corruption and to facilitate asset recovery and the return and disposal of such proceeds in accordance with the Convention, and to support national efforts in formulating strategies for mainstreaming and promoting anti-corruption efforts, transparency and integrity in both the public and the private sectors;

48. *Urges* States parties and signatories to the Convention to strengthen the capacity of legislators, law enforcement officials, judges and prosecutors to combat corruption and to deal with matters relating to asset recovery, including in the areas of mutual legal assistance, confiscation, criminal confiscation and, where appropriate, non-conviction-based forfeiture, in accordance with national law and the Convention, and civil and administrative proceedings, and to give the highest consideration to providing technical assistance in those fields, upon request;

49. *Encourages* Member States to exchange and share with each other, including through regional and international organizations, as appropriate, information on lessons learned and good practices, as well as information related to technical assistance activities and initiatives in order to strengthen international efforts to prevent and combat corruption;

50. *Encourages* States parties to the Convention to provide regular updates and to expand, where appropriate, the information contained in the relevant databases of knowledge on asset recovery, such as Tools and Resources for Anti-Corruption Knowledge and Asset Recovery Watch, taking into consideration constraints on information-sharing based on confidentiality requirements;

51. *Encourages* Member States to regularly collect and publicly share statistics on the recovery and return of stolen assets in order to measure progress towards target 16.4 of the Sustainable Development Goals;[12]

52. *Encourages* the collection and systematization of good practices and tools in the cooperation for asset recovery, including the use and expansion of secure information-sharing tools, with a view to enhancing early and spontaneous information exchange insofar as possible and in accordance with the Convention;

53. *Also encourages* the collection of substantial information duly researched and regularly published by recognized organizations and representatives of civil society;

54. *Encourages* States parties to the Convention to make widely available information on their legal frameworks and procedures with regard to asset recovery under chapter V of the Convention, in practical asset recovery, mutual legal assistance and beneficial ownership guides or other formats designed to facilitate use by other States, and to consider, where advisable, the publication of that information in other languages;

55. *Calls upon* requesting and requested States with practical experience in asset recovery to develop, as appropriate, in cooperation with interested States and providers of technical assistance, non-binding practical guidelines, such as a step-by-step guide, for efficient asset recovery, with a view to enhancing effective approaches to asset recovery based on the lessons learned from past cases, being mindful to seek to add value by building upon existing work in this area;

56. *Encourages* States parties to the Convention to share approaches and practical experience for the return of assets, consistent with article 57 of the Convention, for further dissemination through the Secretariat;

57. *Encourages* requesting States to ensure that adequate national investigative procedures have been initiated and substantiated for the purpose of

[12] See resolution 70/1.

presenting mutual legal assistance requests, and in this context encourages requested States to provide, when appropriate, information on legal frameworks and procedures to the requesting State;

58. *Encourages* States parties to the Convention to compile and provide information in accordance with article 52 of the Convention and to take other actions that help to establish the linkage between assets and offences under the Convention;

59. *Notes with appreciation* the Stolen Asset Recovery Initiative of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the World Bank and its cooperation with relevant partners, and encourages coordination among existing initiatives;

60. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue to provide, in collaboration with the World Bank through the Stolen Asset Recovery Initiative and in coordination with other relevant stakeholders, upon request, technical assistance for the implementation of chapter V of the Convention, including by providing direct expertise on policy or capacity-building through the Office's thematic programme on action against corruption, economic fraud and identity-related crime and, where appropriate, regional programmes, using its range of technical assistance tools;

61. *Encourages* Member States to implement effective measures to detect, prevent and counter corruption, as well as the transfer abroad and laundering of assets derived from corruption, and to strengthen international cooperation and assistance to Member States to assist in the identification, freezing or seizure of such assets, as well as in their recovery and return, in accordance with the Convention, in particular chapter V thereof, and in this regard to continue to discuss innovative modalities to improve mutual legal assistance in order to speed up asset recovery proceedings and render them more successful, while also drawing on the experience and knowledge built through the implementation of the Stolen Asset Recovery Initiative of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the World Bank;

62. *Encourages* States parties to the Convention to consider, where appropriate, and in accordance with national law, the opportunity of referring to the Lausanne guidelines for the efficient recovery of stolen assets in their practice and to continue to exchange practical experiences and consolidate them into a non-binding, step-by-step guide or asset recovery manual, in cooperation with interested States and providers of technical assistance, upon the request of the relevant interested parties;

63. *Commends* the work of the first Global Forum on Asset Recovery, welcomes its efforts to enhance cooperation between requesting and requested States, and also welcomes the possibility of organizing similar forums in the future;

64. *Welcomes* the work of the International Anti-Corruption Academy, a centre of excellence for education, training and academic research in the anti-corruption field, including in the area of asset recovery, and looks forward to its continued efforts in this regard to promote the goals and implementation of the Convention;

65. *Recognizes* the efforts of the Group of 20 in countering corruption at both the global and the national levels, takes note with appreciation of the anti-corruption initiatives outlined in the communiqué of the Summit of the Group of 20, held in Hamburg, Germany, on 7 and 8 July 2017, and urges the Group of 20 to continue to engage other States Members of the United Nations and the United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime in its work in an inclusive and transparent manner to ensure that initiatives of the Group of 20 complement or strengthen the work being undertaken by the United Nations system;

66. *Requests* the Secretary-General, within existing reporting obligations, to include in his report to the General Assembly at its seventy-fifth session under the item on crime prevention and criminal justice an analytical section entitled "Preventing and combating corrupt practices and the transfer of proceeds of corruption, facilitating asset recovery and returning such assets to legitimate owners, in particular to countries of origin, in accordance with the United Nations Convention against Corruption", and also requests the Secretary-General to transmit to the Assembly the report of the Conference of the States Parties to the Convention on its eighth session.

United Nations A/C.3/73/L.16

General Assembly

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12 October 2018

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Seventy-third session
Third Committee
Agenda item 109
Crime prevention and criminal justice

Colombia and Peru: draft resolution

Special session of the General Assembly against corruption

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 54/205 of 22 December 1999, 55/61 of 4 December 2000, 55/188 of 20 December 2000, 56/186 of 21 December 2001 and 57/244 of 20 December 2002, and recalling also its resolutions 58/205 of 23 December 2003, 59/242 of 22 December 2004, 60/207 of 22 December 2005, 61/209 of 20 December 2006, 62/202 of 19 December 2007, 63/226 of 19 December 2008, 64/237 of 24 December 2009, 65/169 of 20 December 2010, 67/189 and 67/192 of 20 December 2012, 68/195 of 18 December 2013, 69/199 of 18 December 2014 and 71/208 of 19 December 2016, and all relevant Human Rights Council resolutions, including resolutions 23/9 of 13 June 2013[1] and 29/11 of 2 July 2015,[2]

Recalling also the entry into force on 14 December 2005 of the United Nations Convention against Corruption,[3] which is the most comprehensive and universal instrument on corruption, recognizing the need to continue to promote its ratification or accession thereto and its full and effective implementation, and acknowledging all relevant regional political declarations of Member States against corruption,

Stressing that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development[4] addresses the need to promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, and concerned about the seriousness of the problems and threats to the stability and security of societies posed by corruption, which undermine the institutions and values of democracy, ethics and justice, and jeopardize sustainable development and the rule of law,

[1] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 53* (A/68/53), chap. V, sect. A.
[2] Ibid., *Seventieth Session, Supplement No. 53* (A/70/53), chap. V, sect. A.
[3] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2349, No. 42146.
[4] Resolution 70/1.

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1. *Decides* to convene in the first half of 2020 a special session of the General Assembly on challenges and measures to prevent and combat corruption and strengthen international cooperation;

2. *Also decides* that the special session of the General Assembly shall adopt a concise and action-oriented political declaration, agreed in advance by consensus through intergovernmental negotiations;

3. *Further decides* to conduct the special session and its preparatory process from within existing resources.

United Nations A/C.3/73/L.17

General Assembly

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Seventy-third session
Third Committee
Agenda item 28 (a)
Social development: implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly

Egypt:* draft resolution

Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming all its previous resolutions on the implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly, including resolution 72/141 of 19 December 2017,

Recalling the World Summit for Social Development, held in Copenhagen from 6 to 12 March 1995, and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly, entitled "World Summit for Social Development and beyond: achieving social development for all in a globalizing world", held in Geneva from 26 June to 1 July 2000,

Reaffirming that the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development[1] and the further initiatives for social development adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-fourth special session,[2] as well as a continued global dialogue on social development issues, constitute the basic framework for the promotion of social development for all at the national and international levels,

Welcoming the progress made towards the full implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration and the Programme of Action through concerted action at the national, regional and global levels, and expressing its deep concern that, more

* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China.

[1] *Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6–12 March 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[2] Resolution S-24/2, annex.

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than 20 years after the convening of the World Summit for Social Development, progress has been slow and uneven, and major gaps remain,

Welcoming also the adoption, in its entirety, of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development[3] in which it is recognized that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development,

Reaffirming the need to achieve sustainable development by promoting sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth, creating greater opportunities for all, reducing inequalities within and among countries, raising basic standards of living, fostering equitable and inclusive social development and promoting the integrated and sustainable management of natural resources,

Recognizing that the three core themes of social development, namely, poverty eradication, full and productive employment and decent work for all and social integration, are interrelated and mutually reinforcing, and that an enabling environment therefore needs to be created so that all three objectives can be pursued simultaneously,

Emphasizing the need to enhance the role of the Commission for Social Development in the follow-up to and review of the World Summit for Social Development and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly, and welcoming the decision of the Economic and Social Council that the Commission, given its mandates and experience in promoting people-centred inclusive development, will report on social aspects related to the agreed main theme of the Council in order to contribute to its work,[4] including by offering inputs regarding the effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in a holistic and inclusive manner,

Welcoming the decision of the Economic and Social Council that the Commission for Social Development will consider one priority theme at each session on the basis of the follow-up to and review of the World Summit for Social Development and its linkages to the social dimensions of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,[5] proposing an action-oriented resolution with recommendations to the Council in order to contribute to its work, and that the priority theme for the 2019 session, which shall allow the Commission to contribute to the work of the Council, will be "Addressing inequalities and challenges to social inclusion through fiscal, wage and social protection policies Strategies for eradicating poverty to achieve sustainable development for all",

Recalling the ministerial declaration adopted at the high-level segment of the 2018 session of the Economic and Social Council on the annual theme "From global to local: supporting sustainable and resilient societies in urban and rural communities" and the ministerial declaration of the 2018 high-level political forum on sustainable development, convened under the auspices of the Council, on the theme "Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies",[6]

Reaffirming that the Declaration on the Right to Development[7] also informs the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, along with other relevant instruments, such as the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on

[3] Resolution 70/1.

[4] Economic and Social Council resolution 2016/6, para. 3.

[5] Economic and Social Council resolution 2018/3, para. 4.

[6] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-third Session, Supplement No. 3* (A/73/3), chap. VI, sect. F.

[7] Resolution 41/128, annex.

Financing for Development,[8] Agenda 2063 adopted by the African Union and the International Labour Organization Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization,[9] and reaffirming also the strong political commitment to address the challenge of financing and creating an enabling environment at all levels for sustainable development in the spirit of global partnership and solidarity,

Noting that the decent work agenda of the International Labour Organization, with its four strategic objectives, has an important role to play in achieving the objective of social protection and elimination of inequalities, as reaffirmed in the Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization,

Affirming its strong support for fair globalization and the need to translate growth into the reduction of inequalities, eradication of poverty and commitment to strategies and policies that aim to promote full, freely chosen and productive employment and decent work for all and that these strategies and policies should constitute fundamental components of relevant national and international policies and national development strategies, including inequality and poverty reduction strategies, and reaffirming that employment creation and decent work for all should be incorporated into macroeconomic policies, taking fully into account the impact and social dimension of globalization, the benefits and costs of which are often unevenly shared and distributed,

Recognizing that although global income inequality remains at high level, it has been declining, while trends in income inequality within countries present a mixed picture, with many countries experiencing a significant rise in recent decades and others having successfully reduced both income and non-income inequalities, although their levels remain high, and emphasizing that addressing inequality in all its dimensions is essential to eradicating poverty, advancing social progress and achieving sustainable development,

Recognizing also that social inclusion is a means for achieving social integration and is crucial for fostering stable, safe, harmonious, peaceful and just societies and for improving social cohesion so as to create an environment for development and progress,

Recognizing further that the remaining effects of the world financial and economic crisis have the potential to undermine progress towards achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the Sustainable Development Goals, and threaten debt sustainability in many countries, especially developing countries,

Deeply concerned that extreme poverty persists in all countries of the world, regardless of their economic, social and cultural situation, and that its extent and its manifestations, such as hunger and malnutrition, vulnerability to trafficking in human beings, disease, lack of adequate shelter and illiteracy, are particularly severe in developing countries, while acknowledging the significant progress made in several parts of the world in combating extreme poverty,

Stressing the importance of removing obstacles to the realization of the right of peoples to self-determination, in particular of peoples living under colonial or other forms of alien domination or foreign occupation, which adversely affect their social and economic development, including their exclusion from labour markets,

Stressing also the importance of establishing a just and lasting peace all over the world in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, supporting all efforts to uphold the sovereign equality of all States and

[8] Resolution 69/313, annex.

[9] A/63/538-E/2008/4, annex.

respect their territorial integrity and political independence, and refraining in international relations from the threat or use of force in any manner inconsistent with the purposes and principles of the United Nations,

Recognizing that terrorism, trafficking in arms, organized crime, trafficking in persons, money-laundering, ethnic and religious conflict, civil war, politically motivated killing and genocide pose increasing challenges to States and societies in the attainment of conditions conducive to social development, including reduction of inequalities, and that they further present urgent and compelling reasons for action by Governments individually and, as appropriate, jointly to foster social cohesion while recognizing, protecting and valuing diversity,

Recognizing also all recent efforts to promote meaningful and inclusive participation of youth in building their societies, including the convening of the first World Youth Forum in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, from 4 to 10 November 2017 as a platform for discussion among youth from all over the world,

Noting with concern that, according to the report of the International Labour Organization entitled "Global Employment Trends for Youth 2017", although there has been a modest economic recovery, youth unemployment remains high and employment quality remains a concern, and young people are three times as likely as adults to be unemployed, which constitutes a serious global problem,

Recognizing that, since the convening of the World Summit for Social Development in Copenhagen in 1995, advances have been made in addressing and promoting social integration, including through the adoption of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002,[10] the World Programme of Action for Youth,[11] the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities,[12] the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples[13] and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action,[14]

Welcoming the International Decade for People of African Descent (2015–2024), which urges Member States to promote the social development of people of African descent, particularly women and girls, by eradicating any form of discrimination, ensuring access to quality education and eliminating challenges and specific risks with regard to health,

Reaffirming the commitment to promoting the rights of indigenous peoples in the areas of education, employment, housing, sanitation, health and social security, and noting the attention paid to those areas in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General;[15]

2. *Welcomes* the reaffirmation by Governments of their will and commitment to continue implementing the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development,[1] in particular to promote equality and social justice, eradicate poverty, promote full and productive employment and decent work for all and foster social integration to achieve stable, safe and just societies for all, and recognizes that the implementation of the

[10] *Report of the Second World Assembly on Ageing, Madrid, 8–12 April 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.IV.4), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

[11] Resolution 50/81, annex, and resolution 62/126, annex.

[12] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2515, No. 44910.

[13] Resolution 61/295, annex.

[14] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4–15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[15] A/73/214.

Copenhagen commitments and the attainment of the internationally agreed development goals are mutually reinforcing;

3. *Reaffirms its commitment* to working tirelessly for the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,[3] its recognition that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development in its three dimensions — economic, social and environmental — in a balanced and integrated manner;

4. *Recognizes* that poverty is a multidimensional phenomenon, invites Member States to develop comprehensive, integrated and coherent poverty eradication strategies that effectively address the structural causes of poverty and inequality with an emphasis on job-rich growth; address and meet the basic human needs of people living in poverty; ensure their access to quality education, nutrition, health, water, sanitation and other public and social services, access to employment and decent work, as well as access to productive resources, including credit, land, training, technology, knowledge and information; and ensure their participation in decision-making on social and economic development policies and programmes in this regard;

5. *Emphasizes* that the major United Nations conferences and summits, including the Millennium Summit, the International Conference on Financing for Development, in its Monterrey Consensus,[16] the 2005 World Summit, the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus, in its Doha Declaration on Financing for Development,[17] the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals, the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, the 2013 special event to follow up efforts made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals, the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, in its Addis Ababa Action Agenda,[8] and the United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda, have reinforced the priority and urgency of the eradication of poverty in all its forms and dimensions within the United Nations development agenda;

6. *Recognizes* the complex character of the ongoing food insecurity situation, including food price volatility, as a combination of several major factors, both structural and conjunctural, which is also negatively affected by, inter alia, environmental degradation, drought and desertification, global climate change, natural disasters, the lack of the necessary technology and armed conflicts, and also recognizes that a strong commitment from national Governments and the international community as a whole is required to confront the major threats to food security and to ensure that policies in the area of agriculture do not distort trade and worsen food insecurity;

7. *Reaffirms* the importance of supporting the African Union's development framework, Agenda 2063, as well as its 10-year plan of action, as a strategic framework for ensuring a positive socioeconomic transformation in Africa within the next 50 years, which is the African Union long-term strategy emphasizing industrialization, youth employment, improved natural resource governance and the reduction of inequalities, and its continental programme embedded in the resolutions of the General Assembly on the New Partnership for Africa's Development[18] and

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[16] *Report of the International Conference on Financing for Development, Monterrey, Mexico, 18–22 March 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.II.A.7), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[17] Resolution 63/239, annex.

[18] A/57/304, annex.

regional initiatives, such as the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme;

8. *Stresses* that the benefits of economic growth should be inclusive and distributed more equitably and that, in order to close the gap of inequality and avoid any further deepening of inequality, comprehensive social policies and programmes, including appropriate social transfer and job creation programmes and social protection systems, are needed;

9. *Reaffirms* that social integration policies should seek to reduce inequalities, promote access to basic social services, education for all and health care, eliminate discrimination, increase the participation and integration of social groups, particularly young people, older persons and persons with disabilities, noting the role of sports in this regard, and address the challenges posed to social development by globalization and market-driven reforms in order for all people in all countries to benefit from globalization;

10. *Stresses* that an enabling environment is a critical precondition for achieving equity and social development and that, while economic growth is essential, entrenched inequality and marginalization are an obstacle to the broad-based and sustained growth required for sustainable, inclusive and people-centred development, and recognizes the need to balance and ensure complementarity between measures to achieve growth and measures to achieve economic and social equity and inclusion in order for there to be an impact on overall poverty levels;

11. *Supports* the development of vertical and horizontal models of distribution of financial resources to decrease inequalities across subnational territories, within urban centres and between urban and rural areas, as well as to promote integrated and balanced territorial development, and reaffirms the importance of improving the transparency of data on spending and resource allocation as a tool for assessing progress towards equity and spatial integration;

12. *Acknowledges* that investment in human capital and social protection has been proven to be effective in reducing poverty and inequality, and invites Member States to mobilize innovative sources of financing, including through public-private partnerships, to secure adequate levels of social expenditure necessary for expanding coverage towards universal access to health, education, innovation, new technologies and basic social protection and to address the issues of illicit financial flows and corruption;

13. *Stresses* that international trade and stable financial systems can be effective tools to create favourable conditions for the development of all countries and that trade barriers and some trading practices continue to have negative effects on employment growth, particularly in developing countries;

14. *Acknowledges* that good governance and the rule of law at the national and international levels are essential for sustained economic growth, sustainable development, the reduction of inequalities and the eradication of poverty, hunger and malnutrition;

15. *Recognizes* the need to promote respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms in order to address the most pressing social needs of people living in poverty, including through the design and development of appropriate mechanisms to strengthen and consolidate democratic institutions and governance;

16. *Stresses* the importance of economic, social and cultural rights and the importance of the principles of non-discrimination, inclusivity and meaningful participation for the implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development;

17. *Acknowledges* that inequalities persist within and among countries, posing significant challenges to social cohesion, reaffirms that the eradication of poverty, promotion of prosperity and reduction of inequality within and among countries are fundamental to achieving sustainable development for all, and that this requires collective and transformative efforts, to leave no one behind and put the furthest behind first, and adapt institutions and policies to take into account the multidimensional nature of inequality and poverty and the inherent interlinkages between different Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and in this regard;

Inequality in access to opportunities

18. *Calls upon* Governments, the international community and other relevant actors to ensure equal opportunity and reduce inequalities of outcome, including by eliminating discriminatory laws, policies and practices and promoting appropriate legislation, policies and actions in this regard;

19. *Encourages* Governments and the international community to learn from the experiences and good practices that have successfully reduced inequalities and adopt an appropriate mix of policies, including macroeconomic, fiscal, wage, employment, labour-market, financial inclusion and social protection policies, that have proven to be effective in promoting inclusive growth and progressively reducing inequality in opportunities and access to basic services, and ensure the synergies between those policies;

20. *Urges* Member States to strengthen social policies, as appropriate, paying particular attention to the specific needs of disadvantaged social groups to ensure that these groups, inter alia, children, youth, persons with disabilities, people living with HIV/AIDS, older persons, indigenous peoples, refugees, internally displaced persons, migrants and other persons in vulnerable situations, are not left behind;

21. *Reaffirms* the need to address all forms of violence in its many manifestations, including domestic violence, particularly against women, children, older persons and persons with disabilities, and discrimination, including xenophobia, and recognizes that violence increases the challenges faced by States and societies in the achievement of poverty eradication, full and productive employment and decent work for all and social integration;

22. *Reaffirms* the commitment to gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, as well as to the mainstreaming of a gender perspective into all development efforts, recognizing that they are critical for achieving sustainable development and for efforts to combat hunger and malnutrition, poverty and disease, to strengthening policies and programmes that improve, ensure and broaden the full participation of women in all spheres of political, economic, social and cultural life as equal partners and to improving the access of women to all resources needed for the full exercise of all their human rights and fundamental freedoms by removing persistent barriers, including ensuring equal access to full and productive employment and decent work for all, as well as strengthening their economic independence;

23. *Stresses* the need to allocate adequate resources for the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women in the workplace, including unequal access to labour-market participation and wage inequalities, as well as reconciliation of work and private life for both women and men;

24. *Recognizes* that youth participation is important for development, and urges Member States and United Nations entities, in consultation with youth and youth-led and youth-focused organizations, to explore and promote new avenues for the full, effective, structured and sustainable participation of young people [...]

youth-led organizations in relevant decision-making processes and monitoring, in all spheres of political, economic, social and cultural life, including in designing and implementing policies, programmes and initiatives, in particular, while implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

Inequality in access to basic services

25. *Calls upon* the international community to provide access to inclusive and equitable quality education at all levels — early childhood, primary, secondary, tertiary and distance education, including technical and vocational training — so that all people may have access to lifelong learning opportunities that help them to acquire the knowledge and skills needed to exploit opportunities to participate fully in society and contribute to sustainable development;

26. *Recognizes* that substantial and efficiently spent investments are needed to improve the quality of education and vocational training and in order to enable millions of people to acquire skills for decent work, and takes note with appreciation of the report of the International Commission on Financing Global Education Opportunity and the recommendations contained therein, as appropriate;

27. *Urges* Member States to promote and respect the right of women and girls to education throughout the life cycle at all levels, especially for those who have been left furthest behind, and eliminate gender disparities in access to all areas of secondary and tertiary education, promote financial inclusion, digital literacy and entrepreneurship, ensure that women and girls have equal access to career development, training, scholarships and fellowships, and adopt positive action to build the leadership skills and influence of women and girls, and adopt measures that promote, respect and guarantee the safety of women and girls in the school environment and that support women and girls with disabilities at all levels of education and training;

28. *Recognizes* the responsibility of Governments to urgently and significantly scale up efforts to accelerate the transition towards universal access to affordable and quality health-care services, and calls upon Member States to accelerate progress towards achieving the goal of universal health coverage, which implies that all people have equal access, without discrimination of any kind, to nationally determined sets of quality promotive, preventive, curative, rehabilitative and palliative basic health services needed and essential, safe, affordable, effective and quality medicines, while ensuring that the use of such services and medicines does not expose the users to financial hardship, with a specific emphasis on the poor, vulnerable and marginalized segments of the population;

Inequality in access to nutrition and food

29. *Acknowledges* the importance of promoting sustainable farming and agriculture and, recognizing the important contribution that family farming and smallholder farming can play in providing food security, reducing inequality in access to food and nutrition, calls upon Governments to ensure access by all people, in particular the poor and people in vulnerable situations, including infants, to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round;

30. *Encourages* Governments to end all forms of malnutrition, including the internationally agreed targets on stunting and wasting in children under 5 years of age, and address the nutritional needs of adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women and older persons;

31. *Invites* Governments to double the agricultural productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers, in particular women, indigenous peoples, family

farmers, pastoralists and fishers, including through secure and equal access to land, other productive resources and inputs, knowledge, financial services, markets and opportunities for value addition and non-farm employment;

Inequality in access to social protection

32. *Urges* Governments, with the cooperation of relevant entities, to establish nationally appropriate social protection systems and floors, including through streamlining fragmented social protection systems/programmes, ensuring that such programmes are gender- and disability-sensitive, and progressively extend their coverage to all people throughout their life cycle, including for workers in the informal economy, invites the International Labour Organization, upon request, to support a Government's effort to strengthen its social protection strategies and policies on extending social security coverage, urges Governments, while taking account of national circumstances, to focus on the needs of those living in, or vulnerable to, poverty and to give particular consideration to universal access to basic social security systems, including the implementation of social protection floors, which can provide a systemic base upon which to address poverty and vulnerability, and in this regard takes note of the International Labour Organization recommendation on social protection floors;

Inequality in access to employment and decent work

33. *Urges* Governments to create an environment conducive to the creation of new job opportunities and develop human resources development strategies premised on national development objectives that ensure a strong link between education, health, training and employment, help to maintain a productive and competitive workforce and are responsive to the needs of the economy;

34. *Urges* States and, as appropriate, the relevant entities of the United Nations system and international and regional organizations, within their respective mandates, as well as civil society, the private sector, employer organizations, trade unions, the media and other relevant actors, to continue to develop and strengthen policies, strategies and programmes to enhance, in particular, the employability of women and youth and to ensure their access to full and productive employment and decent work for all, including by improving access to formal and non-formal education, skills development and vocational training, lifelong learning and retraining and long-distance education, inter alia, in information and communications technology and entrepreneurial skills, particularly in developing countries, including with a view to supporting the economic empowerment of women throughout their life cycle;

35. *Stresses* the need to address challenges faced by those working in informal or vulnerable jobs by creating more decent work opportunities, including providing access to decent jobs in the formal sector and enhancing the productive capacities of people, and strengthen labour institutions and employment and labour-market policies, taking into consideration the specific circumstances of each country;

36. *Urges* Member States to mainstream a gender perspective across all relevant national and local institutions, including labour, economic and financial government agencies, in order to ensure that national planning, decision-making, policy formulation and implementation, budgeting processes and institutional structures contribute to women's economic empowerment in the changing world of work;

37. *Also urges* Member States to address the high rates of youth unemployment, underemployment, vulnerable employment, informal employment and young people not in employment, education or training by developing and implementing targeted and integrated local and national youth employment policies

for inclusive, sustainable and innovative job creation, improved employability, skills development and vocational training to facilitate the transition from school to work and to increase the prospects for integrating youth in the sustainable labour market, and through increased entrepreneurship, including the development of networks of young entrepreneurs at the local, national, regional and global levels that foster knowledge among young people about their rights and responsibilities in society, and encourages Member States to invest in education, support lifelong learning and provide social protection for all youth, and to request donors, specialized United Nations entities and the private sector to continue to provide assistance to Member States, including technical and funding support, as appropriate;

38. *Recognizes* that promoting full employment and decent work for all also requires investing in education, training and skills development for women and men, and girls and boys, strengthening social protection and health systems and applying international labour standards, and urges States and, as appropriate, the relevant entities of the United Nations system and international and regional organizations, within their respective mandates, as well as civil society, the private sector, employer organizations, trade unions, the media and other relevant actors, to continue to develop and strengthen policies, strategies and programmes to enhance, in particular, the employability of women and youth and to ensure their access to full and productive employment and decent work for all, including by improving access to formal and non-formal education, skills development and vocational training, lifelong learning and retraining and long-distance education, inter alia, in information and communications technology and entrepreneurial skills, particularly in developing countries, including with a view to supporting the economic empowerment of women in the different stages of their lives;

Inequality in access to technologies

39. *Recognizes* that substantial digital divides exist between countries and regions, and between developed and developing countries, particularly Africa and least developed countries, and urges policymakers and regulators to work together to provide people with affordable access to technologies, including information and communications technology and digital skills, through effective private-public partnership at multiple levels in order to advance investment in infrastructure and training, facilitated by cross-sectoral collaboration;

Inequality in access to infrastructure

40. *Recognizes* that important environmental and infrastructure inequalities persist, with people living in poverty overwhelmingly suffering from the effects of pollution, climate change and environmental degradation, calls upon the international community, including Member States, to continue their ambitious efforts to strive for more inclusive, equitable, balanced, stable and development-oriented sustainable socioeconomic approaches to overcoming poverty, and, in view of the negative impact of inequality, including gender inequality, on poverty, emphasizes the importance of structural transformation that leads to inclusive and sustainable industrialization for employment creation and poverty reduction, investing in sustainable agriculture and quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure to support economic development and human well-being, with a focus on affordable and equitable access for all, enhancing interconnectivity and achieving access to energy, and improving access to financial services, as well as promoting decent rural employment, improving access to quality education, promoting quality health care, including through the acceleration of the transition towards equitable access to universal health coverage, advancing gender equality and the empowerment of all

women and girls, expanding social protection coverage, climate change mitigation and adaptation and combating inequality and social exclusion;

41. *Looks forward* to the convening of the third Global Infrastructure Forum in Bali, Indonesia, on 13 October 2018, and in this regard recalls, as outlined in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda that a greater range of voices should be heard, particularly from developing countries, to identify and address infrastructure and capacity gaps, in particular in, inter alia, African countries, and that it will highlight opportunities for investment and cooperation and work to ensure that investments are environmentally, socially and economically sustainable;

Urban-rural/spatial inequality

42. *Recognizes* that steps should be taken to anticipate and offset the negative social and economic consequences of globalization, giving priority to agricultural and non-farm sectors, and to maximize its benefits for poor people living and working in rural areas, while paying special attention to the development of micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises, particularly in rural areas, as well as subsistence economies, to secure their safe interaction with larger economies;

43. *Reaffirms* the New Urban Agenda,[19] which envisages cities and human settlements that fulfil their social function, including the social and ecological function of land, with a view to progressively achieving the full realization of the right to adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living, without discrimination, universal access to safe and affordable drinking water and sanitation, as well as equal access for all to public goods and quality services in areas such as food security and nutrition, health, education, infrastructure, mobility and transportation, energy, air energy, air quality and livelihoods;

44. *Encourages* Member States to pursue social and economic policies to support the creation of farm and off-farm jobs, as appropriate, especially labour-intensive and higher-productivity jobs in micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises, and recognizes that redistributive land policies and improved access to formal credit markets through greater financial inclusion, as well as structural transformation policies that help to shift labour to high-productivity manufacturing and services sectors, may be considered by Member States within their national contexts and legislation;

45. *Stresses* that more concerted efforts are required to boost smallholder productivity in a sustainable manner, including scaling up public investments in agriculture, attracting responsible private investment in agriculture, improving the quality and quantity of rural extension services and ensuring that smallholder farmers, in particular women, have access to the necessary resources, assets and markets and to cross-cutting agricultural technologies;

46. *Recognizes* the need to give priority to investing in and further contributing to sustainable development, including sustainable agricultural development, and to a financial infrastructure that provides access to a variety of sustainable products and services for micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises and entrepreneurship cooperatives and other forms of social enterprises, and the participation and entrepreneurship of women as means to promote full and productive employment and decent work for all;

[19] Resolution 71/256, annex.

Environmental inequality

47. *Recognizes* that the negative effects of climate change and environmental disasters have differential impacts, with people in vulnerable situations, poor and rural communities and low-income countries being disproportionately exposed to floods, droughts and other natural disasters, and that they have a lower capacity and assets to recover from such external shocks, and expresses concern that climate change may cause high and volatile food and commodity prices and hit them hardest;

48. *Acknowledges* the important nexus between international migration and social development, and stresses the importance of effectively enforcing labour laws with regard to labour relations and working conditions of migrant workers, inter alia, those related to their remuneration and conditions of health, safety at work and the right to freedom of association;

Social development actors

49. *Reaffirms* that social development requires the active involvement of all actors in the development process, including civil society organizations, corporations, the public sector and small businesses, and that partnerships among all relevant actors within countries are increasingly becoming part of national and international cooperation for social development and can contribute effectively to the achievement of social development goals, and acknowledges the role of public and private sectors as employers and enablers for the effective generation of new investments, full and productive employment and decent work for all, including through partnerships with the United Nations system, civil society and academia;

50. *Acknowledges* the importance of efforts to promote the exchange of information and knowledge on decent work for all and job creation, including green jobs initiatives and related skills, and to facilitate the integration of relevant data into national economic and employment policies;

51. *Stresses* the importance of the policy space and leadership of national Governments for implementing policies for poverty eradication and sustainable development, while remaining consistent with relevant international rules and commitments, in particular in the areas of human rights, social expenditure and social protection programmes, and calls upon international financial institutions and donors to support developing countries in achieving their social development, in line with their national priorities and strategies, by, among other things, providing debt relief within the context of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

52. *Underlines* the responsibility of the private sector, at both the national and the international levels, including small and large companies and transnational corporations, regarding not only the economic and financial implications but also the development, social, gender and environmental implications of their activities, their obligations towards their workers and their contributions to achieving sustainable development, including social development, emphasizes that transnational corporations and other business enterprises have a responsibility to respect human rights, applicable laws and international principles and standards, to operate transparently, in a socially and environmentally responsible manner, and to refrain from affecting the well-being of peoples, and also emphasizes the need to take further concrete actions on corporate responsibility and accountability, including through the participation of all relevant stakeholders, inter alia, for the prevention or prosecution of corruption, and to prevent human rights abuses;

53. *Stresses* the importance of stability in global financial systems and sound national economic policies to creating an enabling international environment to

promote economic growth and social development and further stresses the importance of promoting corporate social responsibility and accountability, and encourages responsible business practices, such as those promoted by the Global Compact and the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights: Implementing the United Nations "Protect, Respect and Remedy" Framework,[20] invites the private sector to take into account not only the economic and financial implications but also the development, social, human rights, gender and environmental implications of its undertakings, and underlines the importance of the International Labour Organization Tripartite Declaration of Principles concerning Multinational Enterprises and Social Policy;

International cooperation

54. *Reaffirms* that international cooperation has an essential role in assisting developing countries, including the least developed countries, in strengthening their human, institutional and technological capacity;

55. *Underlines* that South-South cooperation is an important element of international cooperation for development as a complement to, not a substitute for, North-South cooperation, recognizes its increased importance, different history and particularities, and stresses that it should be seen as an expression of solidarity among peoples and countries of the South, based on their shared experiences and objectives, and that it should continue to be guided by the principles of respect for national sovereignty, national ownership and independence, equality, non-conditionality, non-interference in domestic affairs and mutual benefit;

56. *Emphasizes* that international public finance plays an important role in complementing the efforts of countries to mobilize public resources domestically, especially in the poorest and most vulnerable countries with limited domestic resources, and that an important use of international public finance, including official development assistance (ODA), is to catalyse the mobilization of additional resources from other public and private sources, and notes that ODA providers have reaffirmed their respective commitments, including the commitment by many developed countries to achieve the target of 0.7 per cent of gross national income for official development assistance (ODA/GNI) to developing countries and 0.15 to 0.2 per cent of ODA/GNI to the least developed countries;

57. *Welcomes* the increase in the volume of ODA since the adoption of the Monterrey Consensus, expresses its concern that many countries still fall short of their ODA commitments, reiterates that the fulfilment of all ODA commitments remains crucial, commends those few countries that have met or surpassed their commitment to 0.7 per cent of ODA/GNI and the target of 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of ODA/GNI to the least developed countries, urges all other countries to step up efforts to increase their ODA and to make additional concrete efforts towards the ODA targets, welcomes the decision by the European Union reaffirming its collective commitment to achieve the target of 0.7 per cent of ODA/GNI within the time frame of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and undertaking to meet collectively the target of 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of ODA/GNI to the least developed countries in the short term and to reach 0.20 per cent of ODA/GNI to the least developed countries within the time frame of the 2030 Agenda, and encourages ODA providers to consider setting a target to provide at least 0.20 per cent of ODA/GNI to the least developed countries;

58. *Stresses* the essential role that ODA plays in complementing, leveraging and sustaining financing for development efforts in developing countries and in

[20] A/HRC/17/31, annex.

facilitating the achievement of development objectives, including the internationally agreed development goals, in particular the Sustainable Development Goals, and welcomes steps to improve the effectiveness and quality of aid based on the fundamental principles of national ownership, alignment, harmonization, managing for results and mutual accountability;

59. *Welcomes* the initiatives to mobilize resources for social development, including initiatives that aim to provide access to affordable and quality medicines, vaccines and health technologies, in accordance with the World Trade Organization Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS agreement) on Public Health and the Doha Declaration on the TRIPS Agreement and Public Health which affirms the right of developing countries to use to the full the provisions in the Agreement regarding flexibilities to protect public health, and, in particular, provide access to medicines for all, and reaffirms the support for research into and the development of vaccines and medicines for the communicable and non-communicable diseases that primarily affect developing countries;

60. *Stresses* that the international community shall enhance its efforts to create an enabling environment for social development and poverty eradication through increasing market access for developing countries, technology transfer on mutually agreed terms, financial aid and a comprehensive solution to the external debt problem;

61. *Reaffirms* that each country has the primary responsibility for its own economic and social development and that the role of national policies and development strategies cannot be overemphasized, and underlines the importance of adopting effective measures, including new financial mechanisms, as appropriate, to support the efforts of developing countries to achieve sustained economic growth, sustainable development, poverty eradication and the strengthening of their democratic systems;

62. *Stresses* that the international community should support national commitments to eradicate poverty in all its forms and dimensions with the goal to ensure that no one is left behind, and recognizes the need for greater international cooperation to further reduce inequality between and within countries and increase capacity-building support to countries with the most constrained resources to ensure that social expenditures meet certain targets;

63. *Reconfirms* the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, and recognizes the need to take steps to significantly increase investment to close resource gaps, including through the mobilization of financial resources from all sources, including public, private, domestic and international resource mobilization and allocation;

Follow-up

64. *Reaffirms* that the Commission for Social Development, as a functional commission of the Economic and Social Council, in promoting the integrated treatment of social development issues in the United Nations system, shall review, on a periodic basis, issues related to the follow-up to and implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration and the Programme of Action, in a manner consistent with the functions and contributions of the relevant organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, and shall advise the Council thereon;

65. *Also reaffirms* that the Commission for Social Development continues to have the primary responsibility for the follow-up to and review of the World Summit for Social Development and the outcome of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly,[2] and that it serves as the main United Nations forum for an intensified global dialogue on social development issues, and calls upon Member States, the relevant specialized agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system and civil society to enhance their support for its work;

66. *Further reaffirms* that the Commission for Social Development will contribute to the follow-up to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, within its existing mandate, by supporting the thematic reviews of the high-level political forum on sustainable development on progress in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, including cross-cutting issues, which should reflect the integrated nature of the Goals as well as the interlinkages between them, while engaging all relevant stakeholders and, where possible, feeding into and being aligned with the cycle of the high-level political forum, according to the organizational arrangements to be established by the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council;

67. *Reaffirms* the commitments made in respect of meeting the special needs of Africa at the 2005 World Summit,[21] underlines the call of the Economic and Social Council for enhanced coordination within the United Nations system and the ongoing efforts to harmonize the current initiatives on Africa, in line with the African Union's Agenda 2063, and requests the Commission for Social Development to continue to give due prominence in its work to the social dimensions of the New Partnership for Africa's Development;

68. *Requests* the United Nations funds, programmes and agencies to continue to support national efforts of Member States to achieve inclusive social development in a coherent and coordinated manner, to mainstream the goal of full and productive employment and decent work for all into their policies, programmes and activities, as well as to support efforts of Member States aimed at achieving this objective, and invites financial institutions to support efforts in this regard;

69. *Invites* the Secretary-General, the Economic and Social Council, the regional commissions, the relevant specialized agencies, the funds and programmes of the United Nations system and other intergovernmental forums, within their respective mandates, to continue to integrate into their work programmes and give priority attention to the Copenhagen commitments and the Declaration on the tenth anniversary of the World Summit for Social Development,[22] to continue to be actively involved in their follow-up and to monitor the achievement of those commitments and undertakings;

70. *Calls upon* the Commission for Social Development to continue to address inequality in all its dimensions, in the context of the implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration and the Programme of Action, as well as the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and invites the Commission to emphasize the increased exchange of national, regional and international experiences, the focused and interactive dialogues among experts and practitioners and the sharing of best practices and lessons learned;

71. *Invites* the President of the General Assembly to start the preparation for convening the high-level thematic debate on the issue of inclusive development and inequality within and among countries, before the meeting of the high-level political forum in 2019;

72. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-fourth session, under the item entitled "Social development", the sub-item entitled "Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly", with particular focus on strengthening international cooperation for social development, with particular attention to universal and equitable access to education and primary health care, and requests the Secretary-General to submit a report on the question to the Assembly at that session.

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[21] Resolution 60/1, para. 68.

[22] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2005, Supplement No. 6* (E/2005/26), chap. I, sect. A; see also Economic and Social Council decision 2005/234.

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Third Committee
Agenda item 28 (b)
Social development: social development, including questions relating to the world situation and to youth, ageing, disabled persons and the family

Egypt:* draft resolution

Follow-up to the Second World Assembly on Ageing

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 57/167 of 18 December 2002, in which it endorsed the Political Declaration[1] and the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing,[2] its resolution 58/134 of 22 December 2003, in which it took note, inter alia, of the road map for the implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action, and its resolutions 60/135 of 16 December 2005, 61/142 of 19 December 2006, 62/130 of 18 December 2007, 63/151 of 18 December 2008, 64/132 of 18 December 2009, 65/182 of 21 December 2010, 66/127 of 19 December 2011, 67/139 and 67/143 of 20 December 2012, 68/134 of 18 December 2013, 69/146 of 18 December 2014, 70/164 of 17 December 2015, 71/164 of 19 December 2016 and 72/144 of 19 December 2017,

Recognizing that, in many parts of the world, awareness of the Madrid Plan of Action remains limited or non-existent, which limits the scope of implementation efforts,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General,[3]

Recalling the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,[4] and stressing the need to ensure that issues of relevance to older persons are taken into account in its implementation in order to ensure that no one is left behind, including older persons,

Noting the recent regional developments on the protection and promotion of the human rights of older persons, including the Inter-American Convention on

[1] *Report of the Second World Assembly on Ageing, Madrid, 8–12 April 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.IV.4), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.
[2] Ibid., annex II.
[3] A/72/213.
[4] Resolution 70/1.

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Protecting the Human Rights of Older Persons and the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Older Persons in Africa,

Noting also that, between 2017 and by 2030, the number of persons aged 60 years or over is projected to grow by 46 per cent, from 962 million to 1.4 billion, globally outnumbering youth, as well as children under the age of 10,[5] and that this increase will be the greatest and the most rapid in the developing world, and recognizing that greater attention needs to be paid to the specific challenges affecting older persons, including in the field of human rights,

Recalling World Health Assembly resolutions on ageing, specifically resolution 58.16 of 25 May 2005 on strengthening active and healthy ageing,[6] which stressed the important role of public health policies and programmes in enabling the rapidly growing number of older persons to remain in good health and maintain their many vital contributions to the well-being of their families, communities and societies, resolution 65.3 of 25 May 2012 on strengthening non-communicable disease policies to promote active ageing,[7] which recognized that population ageing is among the major factors contributing to the rising incidence and prevalence of non-communicable diseases, and resolution 69.3 of 29 May 2016, entitled "Global strategy and action plan on ageing and health 2016–2020: towards a world in which everyone can live a long and healthy life",[8]

Acknowledging that many developing countries and countries with economies in transition are confronting a double burden of fighting emerging and re-emerging communicable diseases, such as HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria, in parallel with the increasing threat of non-communicable diseases, and expressing concern about the impact on older persons,

Concerned that many health systems are not sufficiently prepared to respond to the needs of the rapidly ageing population, including the need for preventive, curative, palliative and specialized care,

Deeply concerned that the situation of older persons in many parts of the world has been negatively affected by the world financial and economic crisis, and noting with concern the high incidence of poverty among them,

Recognizing the essential contribution that older persons can continue to make to the functioning of societies and towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development if adequate guarantees are in place,

Concerned about the multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination that may create additional vulnerabilities for older persons and affect their enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms, and noting that older women often face multiple forms of discrimination resulting from gender inequality,

Recognizing that the social exclusion of older persons is a complex process that involves the lack or denial of resources, rights, goods and services as people age, and the inability to participate in societal relationships and activities, available to the majority of people across the varied and multiple domains of society, as well as affects both the quality of life of older persons and the equity and cohesion of an ageing society as a whole, with significant implications for the enjoyment by older persons of their human rights,

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[5] United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division, *World Population Prospects: 2017 Revision*.

[6] See World Health Organization, document WHA58/2005/REC/1.

[7] See World Health Organization, document WHA65/2012/REC/1.

[8] See World Health Organization, document WHA69/2016/REC/1.

Acknowledging the importance of exploring ways to increase the visibility of and attention to the specific challenges faced by older persons in the global development policy framework, including identifying possible gaps and how best to address them,

Recognizing the successful conclusion of the third review and appraisal of the Madrid Plan of Action and its results at the international, regional and national levels, and acknowledging the recommendations of the Commission for Social Development at its fifty-sixth session, in that regard, as endorsed by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 2018/6 of 17 April 2018,

1. *Reaffirms* the Political Declaration[1] and the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002;[2]

2. *Calls upon* all States and the international community to cooperate, support and participate in the global efforts towards an age-inclusive implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development[4] and to mobilize all necessary resources and support in that regard, according to national plans and strategies, including through an integrated and multifaceted approach to improving the well-being of older persons, and in this regard encourages Member States to seize this opportunity to take into account issues of relevance to older persons in their efforts to promote the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals;

3. *Recognizes* that the major challenges faced by older persons undermine their social, economic and cultural participation;

4. *Emphasizes* the need to take active measures against ageism and to view older persons as active contributors to society and not as passive receivers of care and assistance and an impending burden on welfare systems and economies, while promoting the effective realization of their human rights;

5. *Recognizes* the challenges related to the enjoyment of all human rights that older persons face in different areas and that those challenges require in-depth analysis and action to address protection gaps, and calls upon all States to promote and ensure the full realization of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for older persons, including by progressively taking measures to combat age discrimination, neglect, abuse and violence, to provide social protection, access to food and housing, health care, employment, legal capacity and access to justice and to address issues related to social integration through mainstreaming their rights in development, in urban policies and in poverty reduction strategies, and gender equality, bearing in mind the crucial importance of intergenerational solidarity for social development;

6. *Takes note with appreciation* of the work of the Independent Expert on the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons, and stresses the importance of close coordination between the work of the Independent Expert and the Open-ended Working Group on Ageing established by the General Assembly in paragraph 28 of its resolution 65/182, while avoiding unnecessary duplication of their respective mandates and those of other special procedures and subsidiary organs of the Human Rights Council, and relevant United Nations bodies and treaty bodies;

7. *Takes note* of the report of the Independent Expert issued at the thirty-ninth session of the Human Rights Council,[9] and encourages Member States to be mindful of the recommendations contained therein;

8. *Invites* Member States to continue to share their national experiences in developing and implementing policies and programmes aimed at strengthening the

[9] A/HRC/39/50.

promotion and protection of the human rights of older persons, including within the framework of the Open-ended Working Group;

9. *Encourages* Governments to actively address, through national, regional and international efforts, issues that affect older persons and to ensure that the social integration of older persons and the promotion and protection of their rights form an integral part of development policies at all levels;

10. *Encourages* Member States to adopt and implement non-discriminatory policies, regulations and legislation, to systematically review and amend these, where appropriate, if they discriminate against older persons, including on the basis of age, and to take appropriate measures to prevent discrimination against older persons in, inter alia, employment, social protection and the provision of social, health-care and long-term care services;

11. *Calls upon* Member States to promote, in accordance with their national priorities, equitable and affordable access to sustainable basic physical and social infrastructure for all, without discrimination, including affordable serviced land, housing, modern and renewable energy, safe drinking water and sanitation, safe, nutritious and adequate food, waste disposal, sustainable mobility, health care and family planning, education, culture and information and communications technologies, and to ensure that these services are responsive to the rights and needs of older persons, while recognizing that planning for and providing opportunities for making cities inclusive of older persons' economic and social participation is an important dimension of the construction of sustainable cities;

12. *Encourages* Member States to take into account the multidimensional nature of the vulnerability of older persons to poverty and economic insecurity, including through the promotion of good health, care and well-being, in their implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals at the national level;

13. *Encourages* Governments to pay greater attention to building capacity to eradicate poverty among older persons, in particular older women and older persons with disabilities, by mainstreaming ageing issues into poverty eradication measures, women's empowerment strategies and national development plans, and to include both ageing-specific policies and ageing-mainstreaming efforts in their national strategies;

14. *Encourages* Member States to consider expanding, in accordance with domestic legislation and policies, the reach of sustainable pension schemes, including, but not limited to, strategies such as social pensions, and increasing their benefits, with a view to ensuring income security in old age;

15. *Also encourages* Member States to develop and implement long-term care strategies, recognizing and supporting both paid and unpaid care work for older persons, in accordance with the World Health Organization global strategy and action plan on ageing and health 2016–2020,[8] and to further promote long-term care as a positive social and economic investment and a source of employment expansion,

16. *Further encourages* Member States to promote terms and conditions of care work guided by International Labour Organization standards for all care workers, including but not limited to migrants, and to adopt measures to tackle the gender and age stereotypes for care work;

17. *Encourages* Member States to strengthen their efforts to develop national capacities to address their national implementation priorities identified during the review and appraisal of the Madrid Plan of Action by considering and devising strategies that take into account the entirety of the human life course and foster intergenerational solidarity, the strengthening of institutional mechanisms, research,

data collection and analysis and the training of necessary personnel in the field of ageing;

18. *Recommends* that Member States increase efforts to raise awareness of the Madrid Plan of Action and identify key priority areas for its implementation, including empowering older persons and promoting their rights, bearing in mind the crucial importance of intergenerational family interdependence, solidarity and reciprocity for social development, raising awareness of ageing issues and building national capacities, also by promoting and supporting initiatives to advance a positive public image of older persons and their multiple contributions to their families, communities and societies and by working with the regional commissions and enlisting the help of the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat in seeking increased attention for ageing issues;

19. *Encourages* Governments that have not done so to designate focal points for handling the follow-up of national plans of action on ageing, and also encourages Governments to strengthen existing networks of national focal points on ageing;

20. *Invites* Governments to conduct their ageing-related policies through inclusive and participatory consultations with relevant stakeholders and social development partners, in the interest of developing effective policies that create national policy ownership and consensus-building;

21. *Recommends* that Governments involve all older persons and their organizations in the formulation, implementation and monitoring of policies and programmes that affect them, including simple consultative mechanisms to co-research or co-design and take due account of involving those who experience multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination and are particularly vulnerable to high incidences of poverty and social exclusion;

22. *Recommends* that Member States enhance their capacity to more effectively collect data, statistics and qualitative information, disaggregated when necessary by relevant factors, including sex and disability, in order to improve assessment of the situation of older persons, recognizes that the data revolution presents new opportunities and challenges for the use of new data to help with the measurement of progress in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular its aspects of relevance to older persons, and to ensure that no one is left behind, and in this regard welcomes the establishment by the Statistical Commission of the Titchfield group on ageing-related statistics and age disaggregated data;

23. *Encourages* treaty body monitoring mechanisms and special procedures mandate holders to pay due regard to the situation of older persons in their dialogue with Member States, particularly in their concluding observations and reports, respectively, in order to help States parties to existing international human rights instruments, where appropriate, to address the situation of older persons more explicitly in their periodic reports;

24. *Recognizes* the importance of strengthening intergenerational partnerships and solidarity, and in this regard calls upon Member States to promote opportunities for voluntary, constructive and regular interaction between young people and older generations in the family, the workplace and society at large;

25. *Encourages* Member States to adopt social policies that promote the development of community services for older persons, taking into account the psychological and physical aspects of ageing and the special needs of older women and older persons with disabilities;

26. *Also encourages* Member States to ensure that older persons have access to information about their rights so as to enable them to participate fully and justly in their societies and to claim full enjoyment of all human rights;

27. *Calls upon* Member States to develop their national capacity for monitoring and enforcing the rights of older persons, in consultation with all sectors of society, including organizations of older persons, through, inter alia, national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights, where applicable;

28. Also calls upon Member States to strengthen and incorporate a gender and disability perspective into all policy actions on ageing, as well as to address and eliminate discrimination on the basis of age, sex or disability, and recommends that Member States engage with all sectors of society, in particular with relevant organizations with an interest in the matter, including organizations of older persons, women and persons with disabilities, in changing negative stereotypes about older persons, in particular older women and older persons with disabilities, and promote positive images of older persons;

29. *Acknowledges* that universal health coverage implies that all people, including older persons, have access, without discrimination, to nationally determined sets of needed promotive, preventive, curative and rehabilitative basic health services and essential, safe, affordable, effective and quality medicines, while ensuring that the use of such services does not expose older persons to financial hardship, with a special emphasis on the poor, vulnerable and marginalized;

30. *Urges* Member States to develop, implement and evaluate policies and programmes that promote healthy and active ageing and the highest attainable standard of health and well-being for older persons and to develop health care for older persons as part of primary care in the existing national health systems;

31. *Recognizes* the importance of training, education and capacity-building of the health workforce, including unpaid care workers, for home-based care;

32. *Encourages* Member States to ensure that the principle of non-discrimination on the basis of age is incorporated and upheld in health policies and programmes and that the implementation of such policies and programmes is regularly monitored;

33. *Urges* Member States to strengthen intersectoral policy frameworks and institutional mechanisms, as appropriate, for the integrated management of the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases, including health promotion, health care and social welfare services, in order to address the needs of older persons;

34. *Encourages* Member States to provide services and support to older persons, including grandparents, who have assumed responsibility for children who were abandoned or whose parents are deceased, have migrated or are otherwise unable to care for their dependants;

35. *Calls upon* Member States to address the issue of the well-being of and adequate health care for older persons, as well as any cases of neglect, abuse and violence against older persons, in particular older women, by designing and implementing more effective prevention strategies and stronger laws and by developing coherent and comprehensive policy frameworks to address these problems and their underlying factors;

36. *Also calls upon* Member States to take concrete measures to further protect and assist older persons in emergency situations, in accordance with the Madrid Plan of Action and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030;[10]

37. *Stresses* that, in complementing national development efforts, enhanced international cooperation, in particular North-South cooperation, which is complemented, rather than substituted, by South-South and triangular regional and international cooperation, is essential to support developing countries in implementing the Madrid Plan of Action, while recognizing the importance of such assistance as well as the provision of financial assistance;

38. *Encourages* Member States to establish or to strengthen strategic approaches and policy options in relation to the physical and mental health of older persons in the light of new and emerging disease patterns, notably non-communicable diseases, as well as in relation to increased life expectancy, with particular attention to promoting good health and addressing health needs across a care continuum, including prevention, detection and diagnosis, management and rehabilitation, treatment and palliative care, with the aim of achieving comprehensive health-care coverage for older persons;

39. *Encourages* the international community, including international and bilateral donors, to enhance international cooperation to support national efforts to eradicate poverty, in keeping with internationally agreed goals, in order to achieve sustainable and adequate social and economic support for older persons, while bearing in mind that countries have the primary responsibility for their own economic and social development;

40. *Also encourages* the international community to support national efforts to forge stronger partnerships with civil society, including organizations of older persons, academia, research foundations, community-based organizations, including caregivers, and the private sector, in an effort to help to build capacity on ageing issues;

41. *Encourages* the international community and the relevant agencies of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates, to support national efforts to provide funding for research and data-collection initiatives on ageing, as appropriate, in order to better understand the challenges and opportunities presented by population ageing and to provide policymakers with more accurate and more specific information with regard to a gender perspective on ageing, including indicators that provide effective evidence for the equitable delivery and monitoring of the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, the New Urban Agenda[11] and national policymaking, as well as to gain a better understanding of how to promote ageing in place in an equitable manner, in particular during rapid urbanization and gentrification;

42. *Recognizes* the important role of various international and regional organizations that deal with training, capacity-building, policy design and monitoring at the national and regional levels in promoting and facilitating the implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action, and acknowledges the work that is undertaken in various parts of the world, through the regional commissions and regional initiatives, as well as the work of institutes such as the International Institute on Ageing in Malta and the European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research in Vienna;

43. *Takes note with appreciation* of the work of an informal network of interested United Nations entities to exchange information and integrate ageing into

[10] Resolution 69/283, annex II.

[11] Resolution 71/256, annex.

their work programmes on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

44. *Requests* the focal point on ageing of the United Nations system, the Programme on Ageing of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat, to continue to enhance its collaboration with the focal points of the regional commissions, funds and programmes, and recommends that Member States reaffirm the roles of focal points within the United Nations system, increase technical cooperation efforts, consider expanding the role of the regional commissions on ageing issues and continue to provide resources for those efforts, facilitate the coordination of national and international non-governmental organizations on ageing and enhance cooperation with all relevant stakeholders, to promote ageing issues and develop partnerships in this regard;

45. Reiterates the need for additional capacity-building at the national level in order to promote and facilitate further implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action, as well as the results of its review and appraisal cycle, and in this regard encourages Governments to support the United Nations trust fund for ageing so as to enable the Department of Economic and Social Affairs to provide expanded assistance to countries, upon their request;

46. *Requests* the United Nations system to strengthen its capacity to support, in an efficient and coordinated manner, national implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action, where appropriate;

47. *Requests* relevant entities of the United Nations system, including the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), to ensure that the situation of older women is mainstreamed and incorporated across their work and to support, in accordance with their respective mandates, the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular its aspects of relevance to older persons, including gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls;

48. *Invites* relevant entities of the United Nations system, including UN-Women, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Population Fund, the International Labour Organization, the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the World Food Programme, the International Fund for Agricultural Development, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the World Health Organization, among others, as well as the International Organization for Migration, to include in reports to their respective governing bodies relevant information on efforts made by Member States and the international community on issues of relevance to older persons, including their social inclusion;

49. *Notes with appreciation* the work of the Open-ended Working Group on Ageing,[12] and recognizes the positive contributions of Member States, as well as relevant bodies and organizations of the United Nations system, including relevant human rights mandate holders and treaty bodies and the regional commissions, as well as national human rights institutions, intergovernmental and relevant non-governmental organizations with an interest in the matter and invited panellists, during the first nine working sessions of the Working Group, and invites Member States, as well as relevant bodies and organizations of the United Nations system and other relevant stakeholders, to continue to make contributions to the work entrusted to the Working Group, as appropriate;

[12] A/AC.278/2016/2 and A/AC.278/2017/2.

50. *Encourages* Member States to continue to contribute to the work of the Open-ended Working Group, in particular by presenting measures to enhance the promotion and protection of the human rights and dignity of older persons, such as best practices, lessons learned and possible content for a multilateral legal instrument, as appropriate, in order to enable it to fulfil its existing mandate of strengthening the protection of the human rights of older persons by considering the existing international framework of the human rights of older persons and identifying possible gaps and how best to address them, including by considering, as appropriate, the feasibility of further instruments and measures;

51. *Notes with concern* that the current arrangements for the provision of conference services to the Open-ended Working Group on an "as available basis" seriously hampers the fruitful dialogue and interaction among the members of the Working Group as well as the fulfilment of its mandate, and in that regard requests the Secretary-General to provide all necessary support to the Working Group for the organization of annual four-day working sessions during the month of May, with the provision of conference services, including interpretation services, and to include the annual sessions of the Working Group in the Organization's calendar of conferences and meetings;

52. *Invites* the Independent Expert to address and engage in an interactive dialogue with the General Assembly at its seventy-fourth session under the agenda item entitled "Social development";

53. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-fourth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution.

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Seventy-third session

Third Committee

Agenda item 28 (b)

Social development: social development, including questions relating to the world situation and to youth, ageing, disabled persons and the family

Egypt:* draft resolution

Follow-up to the twentieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family and beyond

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 44/82 of 8 December 1989, 50/142 of 21 December 1995, 52/81 of 12 December 1997, 54/124 of 17 December 1999, 56/113 of 19 December 2001, 57/164 of 18 December 2002, 58/15 of 3 December 2003, 59/111 of 6 December 2004, 59/147 of 20 December 2004, 60/133 of 16 December 2005, 62/129 of 18 December 2007, 64/133 of 18 December 2009, 66/126 of 19 December 2011, 67/142 of 20 December 2012, 68/136 of 18 December 2013, 69/144 of 18 December 2014, 71/163 of 19 December 2016 and 72/145 of 19 December 2017 concerning the proclamation of, preparations for and observance of the International Year of the Family and its tenth and twentieth anniversaries,

Recognizing that the preparations for and observance of the twentieth anniversary of the International Year in 2014 provided a useful opportunity to continue to raise awareness of the objectives of the International Year for increasing cooperation on family issues at all levels and for undertaking concerted action to strengthen family-centred policies and programmes as part of an integrated comprehensive approach to development,

Recognizing also that the objectives of the International Year of the Family and its follow-up processes, especially those relating to family policies in the areas of poverty, work-family balance and intergenerational issues, with attention given to the rights and responsibilities of all family members, can contribute to ending poverty, ending hunger, ensuring a healthy life and promoting well-being for all at all ages, promoting lifelong learning opportunities for all, ensuring better education outcomes for children, achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls and eliminating all forms of violence, in particular against women and girls, as part of an integrated comprehensive approach to development,

* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China.

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Acknowledging that the family-related provisions of the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits and their follow-up processes continue to provide policy guidance on ways to strengthen family-centred components of policies and programmes as part of an integrated comprehensive approach to development,

Recognizing the continuing efforts of Governments, the United Nations system, regional organizations and civil society, including academic institutions, to fulfil the objectives of the twentieth anniversary of the International Year at the national, regional and international levels,

Acknowledging that the International Year of the Family and its follow-up processes have served as catalysts for a number of initiatives at the national and international levels, including many family policies and programmes to reduce poverty and hunger and promote the well-being of all at all ages, and can boost development efforts, contribute to better outcomes for children and help to break the intergenerational transfer of poverty in support of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,[1]

Acknowledging also that strengthening intergenerational relations, through such measures as promoting intergenerational living arrangements and encouraging extended family members to live in close proximity to each other, has been found to promote the autonomy, security and well-being of children and older persons, and that initiatives to promote involved and positive parenting and to support the role of grandparents have been found to be beneficial in advancing social integration and solidarity between generations, as well as in promoting and protecting the human rights of all family members,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[2]

2. *Encourages* Governments to continue their efforts to implement the objectives of the International Year of the Family and its follow-up processes and to develop strategies and programmes aimed at strengthening national capacities to address national priorities relating to family issues and to step up their efforts, in collaboration with relevant stakeholders, to implement those objectives, in particular in the areas of fighting poverty and hunger and ensuring the well-being of all at all ages;

3. *Invites* Member States to invest in a variety of family-oriented policies and programmes, as important tools for, inter alia, fighting poverty, social exclusion and inequality, promoting work-family balance and gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls and advancing social integration and intergenerational solidarity, to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;[1]

4. *Encourages* Governments to continue to enact family-oriented policies for poverty reduction in line with the main objectives of the twentieth anniversary of the International Year, including to confront family poverty and social exclusion, while recognizing the multidimensional aspects of poverty and focusing on education, health, employment, social security, livelihoods and social cohesion, including through gender-sensitive social protection system measures, child allowances for parents and pension benefits for older persons;

5. *Encourages* Member States to promote work-family balance as conducive to the well-being of children, the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, inter alia, through improved working conditions for workers with family responsibilities, flexible working arrangements, such as telecommuting, and leave arrangements, such as maternity leave and paternity

[1] Resolution 70/1.
[2] A/73/61-E/2018/4.

leave, affordable, accessible and good quality childcare and initiatives to promote the equal sharing of household responsibilities, including unpaid care work, between men and women;

6. *Also encourages* Member States to invest in family policies and programmes that promote strong intergenerational interactions, such as intergenerational living arrangements, parenting education and support for grandparents, including grandparents who are primary caregivers, in an effort to promote inclusive urbanization, intergenerational solidarity and social cohesion;

7. *Further encourages* Member States to provide universal and gender-sensitive social protection systems, which are key to ensuring poverty reduction, including, as appropriate, targeted cash transfers for families in vulnerable situations, such as when headed by a single parent, in particular those headed by women, and which are most effective in reducing poverty when accompanied by other measures, such as providing access to basic services, high-quality education and health services;

8. *Encourages* Governments to support the United Nations trust fund on family activities;

9. *Encourages* Member States to strengthen cooperation with civil society, academic institutions and the private sector in the implementation of relevant family policies and programmes;

10. *Encourages* further collaboration between the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat and the United Nations entities, agencies, funds and programmes, as well as other relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations active in the family field, as well as the enhancement of research efforts and awareness-raising activities relating to the objectives of the International Year and its follow-up processes;

11. *Requests* the focal point on the family of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs to enhance collaboration with the regional commissions, funds and programmes, recommends that the roles of focal points within the United Nations system be reaffirmed, and invites Member States to increase technical cooperation efforts, consider expanding the role of the regional commissions on family issues and continue to provide resources for those efforts, facilitate the coordination of national and international non-governmental organizations on family issues and enhance cooperation with all relevant stakeholders to promote family issues and develop partnerships in this regard;

12. *Calls upon* Member States and agencies and bodies of the United Nations system, in consultation with civil society and other relevant stakeholders, to continue to provide information on their activities, including on good practices at the national, regional and international levels, in support of the objectives of the International Year and its follow-up processes, to be included in the report of the Secretary-General;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its seventy-fifth session, through the Commission for Social Development and the Economic and Social Council, on the implementation of the objectives of the International Year and its follow-up processes by Member States and by agencies and bodies of the United Nations system;

14. *Decides* to consider the topic "Implementation of the objectives of the International Year of the Family and its follow-up processes" at its seventy-fourth session under the sub-item entitled "Social development, including questions relating to the world social situation and to youth, ageing, disabled persons and the family" of the item entitled "Social development".

United Nations A/C.3/73/L.20

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Seventy-third session
Third Committee
Agenda item 29
Advancement of women

Morocco:* draft resolution

Intensification of efforts to end obstetric fistula

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 62/138 of 18 December 2007, 63/158 of 18 December 2008, 65/188 of 21 December 2010 and 67/147 of 20 December 2012 on supporting efforts to end obstetric fistula and its resolutions 69/148 of 18 December 2014 and 71/169 of 19 December 2016 on the intensification of efforts to end obstetric fistula,

Reaffirming the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action,[1] the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century",[2] the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development[3] and the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development,[4] and their reviews, and the international commitments in the field of social development and to gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls made at the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance[5] and the 2005 World Summit[6] and those contained in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,[7]

* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of African States.

[1] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4–15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[2] Resolution S-23/2, annex, and resolution S-23/3, annex.

[3] *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5–13 September 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[4] *Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6–12 March 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

[5] See A/CONF.189/12 and Corr.1, chap. I.

[6] Resolution 60/1.

[7] Resolution 70/1.

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Reaffirming also the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[8] the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women[9] and the Convention on the Rights of the Child,[10] recalling the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,[11] and urging States that have not done so to consider, as a matter of priority, signing, ratifying or acceding to those conventions and the optional protocols thereto,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General[12] and the conclusions and recommendations contained therein,

Recognizing that intensified national ownership and leadership, political commitment and scaled-up national capacity are urgently needed to accelerate progress towards the elimination of fistula, including by implementing strategies to prevent new cases and treating all existing cases, with special attention paid to countries with the highest maternal mortality and morbidity levels,

Stressing the interlinkages between poverty, malnutrition, lack of or inadequate or inaccessible health-care services, early childbearing and adolescent pregnancy, child, early and forced marriage, violence against young women and girls, sociocultural barriers, marginalization, illiteracy and gender inequality as root causes of obstetric fistula, and that poverty remains the main social risk factor,

Recognizing that the difficult socioeconomic conditions that exist in many developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, have resulted in the acceleration of the feminization of poverty,

Recognizing also that early childbearing and adolescent pregnancy increase the risk of complications during pregnancy and childbirth and entail a much higher risk of maternal mortality and morbidity, and deeply concerned that early childbearing, adolescent pregnancy and limited access to the highest attainable standard of mental and physical health, including sexual and reproductive health, specifically timely access to high-quality emergency obstetric care, cause high levels of obstetric fistula and other maternal morbidities, as well as maternal mortality,

Recognizing further that adolescent girls, in particular those who are impoverished and marginalized, are at particular risk of maternal death and morbidity, including obstetric fistula, and concerned that the leading cause of death among girls aged 15 to 19 in many low- and middle-income countries is complications from pregnancy and childbirth and that women aged 30 and older are at increased risk of developing complications and of dying during childbirth,

Recognizing that lack of access to sexual and reproductive health, especially emergency obstetric services, remains among the leading causes of obstetric fistula, leading to ill health and death for women and girls of childbearing age in many regions of the world, and that a dramatic and sustainable scaling-up of quality treatment and health-care services, including high quality emergency obstetric services, and of the number of trained, competent fistula surgeons and midwives is needed to significantly reduce maternal and newborn mortality and to eradicate obstetric fistula,

Noting that a human rights-based approach to eliminating obstetric fistula and efforts to eliminate obstetric fistula should be underpinned by the principles of, inter

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[8] Resolution 217 A (III).

[9] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1249, No. 20378.

[10] Ibid., vol. 1577, No. 27531.

[11] See resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

[12] A/73/285.

alia, accountability, participation, transparency, empowerment, sustainability, non-discrimination and international cooperation,

Deeply concerned about discrimination against and the marginalization of women and girls and the violation and abuse of their human rights, which often result in reduced access to education and nutrition, compromising their physical and mental health and well-being and their enjoyment of the rights, opportunities and benefits of childhood and adolescence compared with boys, and often in their being subjected to various forms, of cultural, social, sexual and economic exploitation and to violence and harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage, which can increase the risk of obstetric fistula,

Deeply concerned also about the situation of women living with or recovering from obstetric fistula, who are often neglected and stigmatized, which may lead to negative effects on their mental health, resulting in depression and suicide, and are driven deeper into poverty and marginalization,

Recognizing the need to raise awareness among men and adolescent boys and, in this context, to fully engage men and community leaders as strategic partners and allies in the efforts to address and eliminate obstetric fistula,

Welcoming the contribution by Member States, the international community, the private sector and civil society to the global Campaign to End Fistula led by the United Nations Population Fund, bearing in mind that a people-centred approach to social and economic development is fundamental for protecting and empowering individuals and communities,

Deeply concerned that, as the global Campaign to End Fistula completes its fifteenth anniversary, while some progress has been made, significant challenges remain that require the intensification of efforts at all levels to end obstetric fistula,

Deeply concerned also about the insufficient resources for addressing obstetric fistula in high-burden countries, compounded by the low levels of development assistance for maternal and newborn health, which have declined in recent years, and the substantial need for additional resources and support to be provided to countries, to the global Campaign to End Fistula and to other global and regional initiatives dedicated to improving maternal health and eliminating obstetric fistula,

Taking note of the Secretary-General's revised Global Strategy for Women's, Children's and Adolescents' Health (2016–2030), undertaken by a broad coalition of partners, in support of national plans and strategies that aim for the highest attainable standards of health and well-being, physical, mental and social, at every age, ending maternal and newborn mortality, which is preventable, and noting that this is contributing to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals,

Welcoming the various national, regional and international initiatives on all the Sustainable Development Goals and the global Campaign to End Fistula, including those undertaken bilaterally and through South-South cooperation, in support of national plans and strategies in sectors such as health, education, finance, gender equality, energy, water and sanitation, poverty eradication and nutrition as a way to reduce the number of maternal, newborn and under-five child deaths,

Welcoming also ongoing partnerships between stakeholders at all levels to address the multifaceted determinants of maternal, newborn and child health, in close coordination with Member States, based on their needs and priorities, and in this regard welcoming further the commitments to accelerate progress on the health-related Sustainable Development Goals by 2030,

1. *Reaffirms* the commitments made by Member States to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030, and recognizes that the efforts to end

obstetric fistula within a generation will contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030, including Goals 1, 3, 4, 5, 10 and 17;

2. *Recognizes* the interlinkages between poverty, lack of or inadequate access to health-care services, including sexual and reproductive health-care services, lack of or inadequate education for women and girls, early childbearing and adolescent pregnancy, and child, early and forced marriage as root causes of obstetric fistula, also recognizes that such socioeconomic issues should be addressed, including sociocultural barriers, marginalization, illiteracy and gender inequality, and calls upon States, in collaboration with the international community, to take accelerated action to address the situation;

3. *Calls upon* States to take all measures necessary to ensure the right of women and girls to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health, including sexual and reproductive health, and reproductive rights, in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, the Beijing Platform for Action[13] and the outcome documents of their review conferences, and to develop sustainable health systems and social services with a view to ensuring universal access to such systems and services without discrimination, while paying special attention to adequate food and nutrition, water and sanitation, family planning information, increasing women's empowerment, knowledge and awareness and ensuring equitable access to high-quality appropriate prenatal and delivery care for the prevention of obstetric fistula and the reduction of health inequities, as well as postnatal care for the detection and early management of fistula cases;

4. *Also calls upon* States to ensure equitable coverage and timely access, by means of national plans, policies and programmes, to health-care services, in particular emergency obstetric and newborn care, skilled birth attendance, obstetric fistula treatment and family planning, that is financially affordable, accessible and culturally sensitive, especially in rural and most remote areas;

5. *Further calls upon* States to ensure the right to education of good quality for women and girls, on an equal basis with men and boys, and to ensure that they complete a full course of primary education, and to renew their efforts to improve and expand education for women and girls at all levels, including at the secondary and higher levels, including age-appropriate sex education, as well as vocational education and technical training, in order to, inter alia, achieve gender equality, the economic empowerment of women and girls and poverty eradication;

6. *Urges* States to enact and strictly enforce laws to ensure that marriage, including in rural and remote areas, is entered into only with the free and full consent of the intending spouses and, in addition, to enact and strictly enforce laws concerning the minimum legal age of consent and the minimum age for marriage and to raise the minimum age for marriage where necessary;

7. *Calls upon* the international community to provide intensified technical and financial support, in particular to high-burden countries, to accelerate progress towards the elimination of obstetric fistula within a decade, which can contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030 and leave no one behind;

8. *Urges* the international community to provide, upon the request of Member States, the resources and capacity-building necessary to treat fistula cases through surgery, leading to the integration of affected women and girls into their

[13] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing 4–15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

communities, with the appropriate psychosocial, medical and economic support to restore their well-being and dignity;

9. *Urges* multilateral donors, international financial institutions and regional development banks in the public and private sectors, within their respective mandates, to review and implement policies to support national efforts and institutional capacity-building to end obstetric fistula and to ensure that a higher proportion of resources reach young women and girls, in particular in rural and remote areas and the poorest urban areas, as well as to ensure that needed funding is increased, predictable and sustained;

10. *Calls upon* the international community to support the activities of the United Nations Population Fund and other partners, including the World Health Organization, in the global Campaign to End Fistula in establishing and financing regional fistula treatment and training centres and, where necessary, national centres, by identifying and supporting health facilities that have the potential to serve as centres for treatment, training and convalescent care;

11. *Calls upon* States to accelerate progress to improve maternal health by addressing sexual and reproductive, maternal, newborn and child health in a comprehensive manner, inter alia, through the provision of family planning, prenatal care, skilled attendance at birth, including midwives, emergency obstetric and newborn care, postnatal care and methods of prevention and treatment of sexually transmitted diseases and infections, such as HIV, within strengthened health-care systems that provide universal access to affordable, equitable and high-quality integrated health-care services and include community-based preventive and clinical care, as reflected in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;[7]

12. *Urges* the international community to address the shortage and inequitable distribution of doctors, surgeons, midwives, nurses and other health-care workers trained in lifesaving obstetric care, and of space and supplies, which limit the capacity of most fistula centres;

13. *Commends* the commemoration by the international community of 23 May as the International Day to End Obstetric Fistula and the decision to continue to use the International Day each year to significantly raise awareness, intensify actions and mobilize support towards ending obstetric fistula;

14. *Calls upon* States and/or the relevant funds and programmes, organs and the specialized agencies of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates, and invites the international financial institutions and all relevant actors of civil society, including non-governmental organizations, and the private sector, to end obstetric fistula within a decade by:

(a) Redoubling their efforts to meet the internationally agreed goal of improving maternal health by making maternal health-care services and obstetric fistula treatment geographically and financially accessible, including by ensuring universal access to skilled attendance at birth and timely access to high-quality emergency obstetric care and family planning, as well as appropriate prenatal and postnatal care;

(b) Making greater investments in strengthening health systems, ensuring adequately trained and skilled human resources, especially midwives, obstetricians, gynaecologists and doctors, and providing support for the development and maintenance of infrastructure, as well as investments in referral mechanisms, equipment and supply chains, to improve maternal and newborn health-care services and ensure that women and girls have access to the full continuum of care, with functional quality control and monitoring mechanisms in place for all areas of service delivery;

(c) Supporting the training of doctors and surgeons, nurses and other health-care workers in lifesaving obstetric care, especially midwives, who are the front-line workers in the fight to prevent obstetric fistula and maternal and newborn mortality, including training on fistula prevention, treatment and care as a standard element of the training curricula of health professionals;

(d) Ensuring universal access through national policies, plans and programmes that make maternal and newborn health-care services, particularly family planning, skilled attendance at birth, emergency obstetric and newborn care and obstetric fistula treatment, financially accessible and affordable, including in rural and remote areas and among the poorest women and girls through, where appropriate, the establishment and distribution of health-care facilities and trained medical personnel, collaboration with the transport sector for affordable transport options, the promotion of and support for community-based solutions and the provision of incentives and other means to secure the presence in rural and remote areas of qualified health-care professionals who are able to perform interventions to prevent obstetric fistula;

(e) Developing, implementing, following up on and supporting national and international prevention, care and treatment and socioeconomic reintegration and support strategies, policies and plans to eliminate obstetric fistula within a decade developing further multisectoral, multidisciplinary, comprehensive and integrated action plans in order to bring about lasting solutions and put an end to maternal mortality and morbidity and obstetric fistula, which is preventable, including by ensuring access to affordable, accessible, comprehensive, high-quality maternal health-care services, and, within countries, incorporating into all sectors of national budgets policy and programmatic approaches to address inequities and reach poor, vulnerable women and girls;

(f) Establishing or strengthening, as appropriate, a national task force for obstetric fistula, with a lead governmental entity, to enhance national coordination and improve partner collaboration to end obstetric fistula, including by partnering with in-country efforts to increase surgical capacity and promote universal access to essential and life-saving surgery;

(g) Strengthening the capacity of health-care systems, in particular public health systems, to provide the essential services needed to prevent obstetric fistula and to treat existing cases by increasing national budgets for health, ensuring that adequate funds are allocated to reproductive health, including for obstetric fistula, ensuring access to fistula treatment through increased availability of trained, expert fistula surgeons and permanent, holistic fistula services integrated into strategically selected hospitals, thereby addressing the significant backlog of women and girls awaiting surgical repair of fistula, and encouraging communication among fistula centres to facilitate training, research, advocacy and fundraising and the application of relevant medical standards, including consideration of the use of the World Health Organization manual entitled "Obstetric Fistula: Guiding Principles for Clinical Management and Programme Development", which provides background information and principles for developing fistula prevention and treatment programmes, as appropriate;

(h) Mobilizing funding to provide free or adequately subsidized maternal health-care and obstetric fistula repair and treatment services, including by encouraging networking among providers and the sharing of new treatment techniques and protocols to protect women's and children's well-being and survival and to prevent the recurrence of subsequent fistulas by making post-surgery follow-up and the tracking of fistula patients a routine and key component of all fistula programmes, and also to ensure access to elective caesarean sections for fistula

survivors who become pregnant again in order to prevent fistula recurrence and to increase the chances of survival of mother and baby in all subsequent pregnancies;

(i) Increasing national budgets and harnessing national resources for health, ensuring that adequate funds are allocated to reproductive health, including for obstetric fistula and strengthening the capacity of health-care systems to provide the essential services to prevent obstetric fistula and to treat existing cases;

(j) Strengthening partnerships, including regional initiatives and collaboration, and significantly increasing international financial commitments to end fistula within a decade and to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals;

(k) Intensifying efforts to mobilize resources for the global Campaign to End Fistula in order to address the declining contributions to the Campaign and meet the current needs of countries;

(l) Ensuring that all women and girls who have undergone fistula treatment, including the forgotten women and girls whose conditions are deemed incurable or inoperable, are provided with and have access to comprehensive health-care services, holistic social integration services and careful follow-up, including counselling, education, family planning and socioeconomic empowerment, for as long as needed, through, inter alia, skills development and income-generating activities, so that they can overcome abandonment, stigma, ostracism, and social exclusion, and developing linkages with civil society organizations and women's and girls' empowerment programmes so as to help to achieve this goal;

(m) Empowering fistula survivors to contribute to community sensitization and mobilization as advocates for fistula elimination, safe motherhood and newborn survival;

(n) Accelerating efforts to improve the health of women and girls globally, with an increased focus on social determinants that affect their well-being, which include the provision of universal education for women and girls, economic empowerment, with access to microcredit, savings and microfinancing, legal reforms, and social initiatives, including legal literacy to protect women and girls from violence and discrimination, child marriage and early pregnancy;

(o) Educating individual women and men, girls and boys, communities, policymakers and health professionals about how obstetric fistula can be prevented and treated, and increasing awareness of the needs of pregnant women and girls, as well as of those who have undergone surgical fistula repair, including their right to the highest attainable standard of mental and physical health, including sexual and reproductive health, by working with local community and religious leaders, traditional birth attendants and midwives, women and girls who have suffered from fistula, the media, social workers, civil society, women's organizations, influential public figures and policymakers;

(p) Enhancing the participation of men and adolescent boys in the intensification of efforts to end obstetric fistula and further strengthening their involvement as partners, including in the global Campaign to End Fistula;

(q) Strengthening awareness-raising and advocacy, including through the media and schools, to effectively reach women, young boys and girls, families and communities with key messages on fistula prevention and treatment and social reintegration;

(r) Strengthening research, monitoring and evaluation systems, including by developing a community- and facility-based mechanism for the systematic notification of obstetric fistula cases and maternal and newborn deaths to ministries of health, and their recording in a national register, and by acknowledging obstetric

fistula as a nationally notifiable condition, triggering immediate reporting, tracking and follow-up for the purpose of guiding the development and implementation of maternal health programmes and ending fistula within a decade;

(s) Strengthening research, data collection, monitoring and evaluation to guide the planning and implementation of maternal health programmes, including for obstetric fistula, by conducting up-to-date needs assessments on emergency obstetric and newborn care and for fistula and routine reviews of maternal deaths and near-miss cases as part of a national maternal death surveillance and response system, integrated within national health information systems;

(t) Improving data collection, pre- and post-surgery, to measure progress in addressing needs for surgical treatment and the quality of surgery, rehabilitation and socioeconomic reintegration services, including post-surgery prospects for successful subsequent pregnancies, live births and severe health-related complications, so as to address the challenges of improving maternal health;

(u) Providing essential health-care services, equipment and supplies, education, skills training and income-generating projects and support to women and girls so that they can break out of the cycle of poverty;

15. *Encourages* Member States to contribute to efforts to end obstetric fistula, including, in particular, through the global Campaign to End Fistula, to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030 and to commit themselves to continued efforts to improve maternal and newborn health, with the aim of eliminating obstetric fistula globally within a decade;

16. *Requests* the United Nations Population Fund and the global Campaign to End Fistula to lead the development of a global road map to accelerate action to end obstetric fistula within a decade, including through funding for interventions at the community, subnational, national, regional and international levels, and support to countries, United Nations organizations, the Campaign and other global initiatives dedicated to improving maternal and newborn health and eliminating fistula;

17. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-fifth session, under the item entitled "Advancement of women", an in-depth report, with specific updated statistics and data disaggregated by age, location and other demographic factors on obstetric fistula and the challenges faced by Member States in implementing the present resolution.

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France and Netherlands: draft resolution

Intensification of efforts to prevent and eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls: sexual harassment

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 61/143 of 19 December 2006, 62/133 of 18 December 2007, 63/155 of 18 December 2008, 64/137 of 18 December 2009, 65/187 of 21 December 2010, 67/144 of 20 December 2012, 69/147 of 18 December 2014 and all its previous resolutions on the elimination of violence against women, as well as its resolution 71/170 of 19 December 2016 on the intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls,

Recalling also Human Rights Council resolution 38/5 of 5 July 2018, entitled "Accelerating efforts to eliminate violence against women: preventing and responding to violence against women and girls in digital contexts",

Recalling further Commission on the Status of Women resolution 61/1 of 22 March 2017, on preventing and eliminating sexual harassment in the workplace,[1] and all relevant decisions of the International Labour Organization,

Reaffirming the obligation of all States to promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms, and reaffirming also that discrimination on the basis of sex is contrary to the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[2] the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,[3] the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,[3] the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women[4] and the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Optional Protocols thereto,[5]

[1] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2017, Supplement No. 7* (E/2017/27), chap. I, sect. D.
[2] Resolution 217 A (III).
[3] See resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.
[4] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1249, No. 20378.
[5] Ibid., vols. 1577, 2171 and 2173, No. 27531; and resolution 66/138, annex.

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Reaffirming also the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action,[6] the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women,[7] the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action,[8] the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development[9] and the outcomes of their review conferences, and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples,[10]

Recalling the commitments to eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation, and to provide access to safe public spaces for women and children, contained in Sustainable Development Goals 5 and 11, in particular in targets 5.2 and 11.7,[11] and taking into account the commitment to leave no one behind,

Deeply concerned about violence against women and girls in all its different forms and manifestations worldwide, which is underrecognized and underreported, particularly at the community level, and its pervasiveness, which reflects discriminatory norms that reinforce stereotypes and gender inequality and the corresponding impunity and lack of accountability, reiterating the need to intensify efforts to prevent and eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls in the public and private spheres in all regions of the world, and re-emphasizing that violence against women and girls violates, and impairs their full enjoyment of, all human rights,

Stressing that "violence against women and girls" means any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women and girls, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life, including in digital contexts, and noting the economic and social harm caused by such violence,

Recognizing that violence against women and girls, including sexual harassment in the public space, on the way to and from and at school and in the workplace, and its redefinition through technology-mediated environments, is rooted in historical and structural inequality in power relations between men and women, seriously violates and impairs or nullifies the enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by women and girls and constitutes a major impediment to their full, equal and effective participation in society, the economy and political decision-making,

Bearing in mind that sexual harassment in the public space, on the way to and from and at school and in the workplace and the resulting hostile environment have a further negative impact on women and girls in the enjoyment of their rights and equal opportunities, have negative physical and mental health consequences for the victims and may negatively affect their families,

Recognizing the particular risk of sexual harassment faced by women and girls who suffer multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination,

Deeply concerned that school-related violence against girls, including sexual violence and harassment on the way to and from and at school, such as violence perpetrated by teachers, continues to deter girls' education and, in many cases, the transition to and completion of secondary education, and that these risks may influence the decision of parents to allow girls to attend school,

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[6] A/CONF/157/24 (Part I), chap III.

[7] Resolution 48/104.

[8] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4–15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[9] *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5–13 September 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[10] Resolution 61/295, annex.

[11] See resolution 70/1.

Recognizing that women and girls are frequently subject to unwelcome scrutiny, harassment and violence at work and that women and girls face increased risks of harassment and violence in particular contexts, such as when working outside the normal working hours or when working in the same place where they live,

Acknowledging that the increased access of women and girls to employment and to workplaces, either male-dominated or where stereotyped masculinities prevail, can increase the risk of violence and harassment against them,

Concerned about the large number of women and girls worldwide who have reported being victims of sexual harassment in their workplace, and concerned also that, owing to underreporting, the actual number may be much greater,

Underscoring that often shame, stigma, lack of information and awareness, fear of reprisals, persistent impunity and low conviction rates for violence against women and girls and negative economic consequences, such as loss of livelihood or reduced household income, prevent many women and, as applicable, girls from reporting or acting as witnesses and from seeking redress and justice in cases of sexual harassment in the public space, on the way to and from and at school and in the workplace,

Deeply concerned about all acts of violence against women and girls involved in political and public life, including women politicians, political candidates, journalists and other media workers and human rights defenders,

Emphasizing that the lack or inadequacy of disaggregated data and documentation and research on sexual harassment against women and girls, including in and outside of the workplace, impedes efforts to design and implement specific measures, including, where appropriate, policies and legislation to prevent and eliminate this form of violence,

Stressing that laws addressing violence and harassment in the workplace are often of limited scope, not covering a wide range of workplaces, including homes, and that gaps need to be addressed,

Stressing also that the obligation and primary responsibility to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms lie with the State,

Stressing further that employers have the primary responsibility to take measures to prevent sexual harassment in the workplace and to facilitate effective action after sexual harassment has occurred by holding perpetrators to account and providing access to remedies and protection for victims and whistle-blowers, bearing in mind that victims of sexual harassment may be subject to further discrimination or reprisals,

Stressing the need, in addition to the implementation of laws, to change social norms that condone violence against women in the workplace, including through training and awareness-raising campaigns conducted in workplaces, which are associated with a change in attitudes and increased knowledge about sexual harassment, particularly among men and boys,

1. *Strongly condemns* all forms of violence against all women and girls, including sexual harassment, recognizing that it is an impediment to the achievement of gender equality and to the full realization of all human rights for women and girls;

2. *Acknowledges* that sexual harassment is a form of violence and a violation and abuse of human rights and that it encompasses a continuum of unacceptable behaviours and practices that are likely to result in physical, psychological or sexual harm or suffering and can be defined as any unwelcome sexual advance, request for sexual favour, verbal or physical conduct or gesture of a sexual nature, or any other behaviour of a sexual nature that might reasonably be expected or be perceived to cause offence or humiliation to another;

3. *Urges* States to condemn violence against women and girls, including sexual harassment in the workplace, schools and public spaces, and reaffirms that they must not invoke any custom, tradition or religious consideration to avoid their obligations with respect to its elimination and should pursue, by all appropriate means and without delay, a policy of eliminating violence against women as set out in the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women;[7]

4. *Stresses* the need to address discrimination based on multiple and intersecting factors, which places women and girls at greater risk of exploitation, violence and abuse, and to take appropriate action to empower and protect them;

5. *Notes* that efforts by civil society organizations in eliminating violence against women and girls are complementary to those of Governments, and in this regard urges States to support, where possible, initiatives not led by States that are aimed at promoting gender equality and at preventing, responding to and protecting women and girls from sexual harassment in the public space, on the way to and from and at school and in the workplace;

6. *Urges* States to address structural and underlying causes and risk factors so as to prevent sexual harassment, including by:

(a) Modifying social and cultural patterns of conduct with a view to preventing and eliminating in the public and private spheres patriarchal and gender stereotypes, negative social norms, attitudes and behaviours and unequal power relations that regard women and girls as subordinate to men and boys and that underlie and perpetuate discrimination and violence against women and girls, including sexual harassment;

(b) Emphasizing the important role that men and boys can play in preventing and eliminating violence against women and girls, including by challenging gender stereotypes and the negative social norms, attitudes and behaviours that underlie and perpetuate such violence and further developing and implementing measures that reinforce non-violent actions, attitudes and values, and encouraging men and boys, alongside women and girls, to take an active part and become strategic partners and allies in efforts to prevent and eliminate all forms of violence and discrimination against women and girls;

(c) Committing themselves to accelerate efforts to scale up scientifically accurate age-appropriate comprehensive education that provides adolescent girls and boys and young women and men, in and out of school, consistent with their evolving capacities, with information on sexual and reproductive health, gender equality and women's empowerment, human rights, physical, psychological and pubertal development and power in relationships between women and men, to enable them to build self-esteem and foster informed decision-making, communication and risk reduction skills and to develop respectful relationships, in full partnership with young people, parents, legal guardians, caregivers, educators and health-care providers, in order to end sexual violence and harassment;

7. *Calls upon* States to take effective action to prevent and eliminate sexual harassment against women and girls in the public space, on the way to and from and at school and in the workplace, without delay, including by:

(a) Adopting, strengthening and implementing legislation and policies in accordance with their obligations under international law, including human rights law, which address the issue of sexual harassment in a comprehensive manner by, inter alia, criminalizing sexual harassment, taking protective and preventive measures and ensuring accountability and access to effective remedies, including through adequate enforcement by the police and the judiciary of civil remedies, orders of

protection and criminal sanctions in order to eliminate impunity and avoid revictimization;

(b) Defining and prohibiting harassment, including sexual harassment at work and school and in public spaces through laws, ensuring appropriate complaints procedures and mechanisms and establishing criminal sanctions for sexual harassment, as well as exercising due diligence by taking measures to prevent, investigate, prosecute and hold to account the perpetrators of sexual harassment in the workplace and provide for effective access to appropriate remedies for victims;

(c) Preventing and eliminating all forms of violence, including sexual harassment against women and girls in all settings, including public and private spaces, means of public transport, schools and workplaces, particularly workplaces that are largely male-dominated or where a stereotyped masculinity prevails, by, inter alia, implementing effective violence-prevention and response activities, including by facilitating effective action after sexual harassment has been committed by holding perpetrators to account and providing victims with access to remedies and protection, engaging men and boys, educating children from a young age about the importance of treating all people with dignity and respect and designing educational programmes and training materials that support gender equality, human rights, respectful relationships and non-violent behaviour;

(d) Accelerating efforts to develop, review and strengthen inclusive and gender-responsive policies, including by allocating adequate resources, to address the structural and underlying causes of violence and sexual harassment against women and girls, to overcome gender stereotypes and negative social norms, to encourage the media to examine the impact of gender-role stereotypes, including those perpetuated by commercial advertisements, that foster gender-based violence, sexual exploitation and inequalities, to promote zero tolerance for such violence and to end the stigmatization of victims and survivors of violence;

(e) Taking measures to ensure that all officials, including those in leadership positions, responsible for implementing policies and programmes aimed at preventing violence against women and girls, including sexual harassment, protecting and assisting the victims and investigating and punishing acts of violence receive ongoing, adequate and gender- and culturally sensitive training to be aware of gender-specific needs, as well as of the underlying causes and short- and long-term impacts of sexual harassment;

(f) Removing barriers, whether political, legal, cultural, economic, institutional or religious, preventing the full, equal and effective participation of women in leadership and political and other decision-making positions, taking into account that promoting women to leadership positions may significantly reduce the risk of sexual harassment;

(g) Taking measures to ensure that all workplaces are free from discrimination and exploitation, violence, and sexual harassment and bullying and that they address discrimination and violence against women and girls, as appropriate, through such measures as regulatory and oversight frameworks and reforms, collective agreements, codes of conduct, including appropriate disciplinary measures, protocols and procedures, and referral of cases of violence to health services for treatment and to police for investigation, as well as through awareness-raising and capacity-building, in collaboration with employers, unions and workers, including through workplace services and flexibility for victims and survivors;

(h) Taking measures to improve the safety of girls at and on the way to and from school, including by establishing a safe and violence-free environment by improving infrastructure, such as transportation, providing separate and adequate

sanitation facilities, improved lighting, playgrounds and safe environments and adopting policies to prohibit, prevent and address violence against children, especially girls, including sexual harassment, bullying and other forms of violence, through such measures as conducting violence-prevention activities in schools and communities and establishing and enforcing penalties for violence against girls;

(i) Ensuring the promotion and protection of the human rights of all women, their sexual and reproductive health and their reproductive rights in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development,[9] the Beijing Platform for Action[8] and the outcome documents of their review conferences, including through the development and enforcement of policies and legal frameworks and the strengthening of health systems that make universally accessible and available quality, comprehensive sexual and reproductive health-care services, commodities, information and education, including safe and effective methods of modern contraception, emergency contraception, prevention programmes for adolescent pregnancy, maternal health care, such as skilled birth attendance and emergency obstetric care, which will reduce obstetric fistula and other complications of pregnancy and delivery, safe abortion where such services are permitted by national law, and prevention and treatment of reproductive tract infections, sexually transmitted infections, HIV and reproductive cancers, recognizing that human rights include the right to have control over and decide freely and responsibly on matters related to sexuality, including sexual and reproductive health, free from coercion, discrimination and violence;

8. *Urges* States to take effective action to protect victims of all forms of violence, including sexual harassment in the workplace, including by:

(a) Providing relevant, comprehensive and victim-centred legal protection to support and assist victims of sexual harassment in the public space, on the way to and from and at school and in the workplace in a gender-sensitive manner, including the protection of victims and witnesses from reprisals for bringing complaints or giving evidence, within the framework of their national legal systems, including, as appropriate, legislative or other measures throughout the criminal and civil justice system, paying particular attention to women and girls facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination;

(b) Establishing comprehensive, coordinated, interdisciplinary, accessible and sustained multisectoral services, programmes and responses for all victims and survivors of all forms of violence, including sexual harassment in the public space, on the way to and from and at school and in the workplace, that are adequately resourced, in a language that they understand and in which they can communicate and include effective and coordinated action by, as appropriate, relevant stakeholders, such as the police and the justice sector, as well as providers of legal aid services, health-care services, shelters, medical and psychological assistance, counselling services and protection and, in cases involving girl victims, that ensure that such services, programmes and responses take into account the best interests of the child;

(c) Establishing and/or strengthening police and health workers' response protocols and procedures to ensure that all appropriate actions are taken to protect victims of sexual harassment in the public space, on the way to and from and at school and in the workplace, to identify acts of violence and to prevent further acts of violence and psychological harm, ensuring that the services provided respond to the needs of survivors, including by ensuring access to confidential reporting services, as well as female health-care providers, police officers and counsellors if requested, taking into account the need to ensure and maintain the privacy and confidentiality of the victim;

9. *Calls upon* States to hold employers accountable when they fail to abide by the laws and regulations set out by States on sexual harassment against women and girls in the workplace, including but not limited to the agricultural, textile, entertainment and extractive industries, transnational and national corporations and public services;

10. *Also calls upon* States to exercise due diligence in preventing violations and abuses against all women human rights defenders, politicians, activists, journalists and media workers, including through practical steps to prevent threats, harassment and violence, and in combating impunity by ensuring that those responsible for violations and abuses, including gender-based violence and threats, committed by State or non-State actors, including online, are promptly brought to justice through impartial investigations;

11. *Urges* States to systematically collect, analyse and disseminate data disaggregated by sex, age and other relevant parameters, including, where appropriate, administrative data from the police, the health sector and the judiciary, to monitor all forms of violence against women and girls, including sexual harassment, such as data on the relationship between the perpetrator and the victim and geographical location, with the involvement of national statistical offices and, where appropriate, in partnership with other actors, including law enforcement agencies, in order to effectively review and implement laws, policies, strategies and preventive and protective measures, while ensuring and maintaining the privacy and confidentiality of the victims;

12. *Encourages* States to cooperate with civil society, including women's and community-based organizations, feminist groups, women human rights defenders, organizations led by girls and youth, and unions, in preventing and eliminating sexual harassment;

13. *Stresses* that, within the United Nations system, adequate resources should be assigned to the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) and other bodies, specialized agencies, funds and programmes responsible for the promotion of gender equality, the empowerment of women and the human rights of women and girls and to efforts throughout the United Nations system to prevent and eliminate violence against women and girls, including sexual harassment in the public space, on the way to and from and at school and in the workplace, and calls upon the United Nations system to make the necessary support and resources available;

14. *Also stresses* the importance of the Secretary-General's Global Database on Violence against Women, expresses its appreciation to all those States that have provided the Database with information regarding, inter alia, their national policies and legal frameworks aimed at eliminating violence against women and girls and supporting victims of such violence, strongly encourages all States to regularly provide updated information for the Database, and calls upon all relevant entities of the United Nations system to continue to support States, at their request, in the compilation and regular updating of pertinent information and to raise awareness of the Database among all relevant stakeholders, including civil society;

15. *Acknowledges* the work of the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat, as requested by the Statistical Commission, on the development of guidelines to support the production by Member States of statistics on violence against women and girls;

16. *Requests* the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on violence against women, its causes and consequences to present an annual report to the General Assembly at its seventy-fourth and seventy-fifth sessions;

17. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-fifth session a report containing:

(a) Information provided by the United Nations bodies, funds and programmes and the specialized agencies on their follow-up activities to implement resolution 71/170 and the present resolution, including on their assistance to States in their efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls;

(b) Information provided by States on their follow-up activities to implement the present resolution;

18. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to present an oral report to the Commission on the Status of Women at its sixty-third and sixty-fourth sessions, including information provided by the United Nations bodies, funds and programmes and the specialized agencies on recent follow-up activities to implement resolutions 69/147 and 71/170 and the present resolution, and urges such entities to contribute promptly to that report;

19. *Decides* to continue its consideration of the elimination of all forms of violence against women and girls at its seventy-fifth session under the item entitled "Advancement of women".

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Promotion and protection of the rights of children: promotion and protection of the rights of children

Argentina, Canada, Costa Rica, Ghana, Italy, Netherlands and Zambia: draft resolution

Child, early and forced marriage

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolutions 69/156 of 18 December 2014 and 71/175 of 19 December 2016 on child, early and forced marriage,

Recalling its resolutions 72/154 of 19 December 2017 on the girl child and 71/170 of 19 December 2016, entitled "Intensification of efforts to prevent and eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls: domestic violence", as well as Human Rights Council resolution 35/16 of 22 June 2017 on child, early and forced marriage in humanitarian settings[1] and all other previous resolutions relating to child, early and forced marriage,

Guided by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[2] the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights[3] and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,[3] the Convention on the Rights of the Child,[4] the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,[5] together with the relevant Optional Protocols thereto,[6] the Supplementary Convention on the Abolition of Slavery,[7] the Slave Trade, and Institutions and Practices Similar to Slavery and the Convention on Consent to Marriage, Minimum Age for Marriage and Registration of Marriages,[8] as well as other relevant human rights instruments,

[1] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-second Session, Supplement No. 53* (A/72/53), chap. V, sect. A.
[2] Resolution 217 A (III).
[3] See resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.
[4] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1577, No. 27531.
[5] Ibid., vol. 1249, No. 20378.
[6] Ibid., vols. 2171 and 2173, No. 27531, and resolution 66/138, annex; and United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2131, No. 20378.
[7] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 266, No. 3822.
[8] Ibid., vol. 521, No. 7525.

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Reaffirming the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action,[9] as well as the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development,[10] the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action[11] and the outcome documents of their review conferences,

Reaffirming also relevant resolutions and agreed conclusions of the Commission on the Status of Women,

Noting the integrated and indivisible nature of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development[12] and the range of goals and targets relevant to eliminating child, early and forced marriage, including target 5.3,

Welcoming the report of the Secretary-General on the issue of child, early and forced marriage,[13] and taking note with appreciation of the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the expert workshop on the impact of existing strategies and initiatives to address child, early and forced marriage, held in Geneva on 21 and 22 October 2016,[14]

Taking note with appreciation of the ongoing United Nations Population Fund-United Nations Children's Fund Global Programme to Accelerate Action to End Child Marriage, the African Union Campaign to End Child Marriage, the Regional Action Plan to End Child Marriage in South Asia and the Joint Inter-Agency Programme to End Child Marriage and Early Unions in Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as ongoing United Nations activities and programmes on child, early and forced marriage, and further encouraging coordinated approaches to action at all levels,

Recognizing that child, early and forced marriage is a harmful practice that violates, abuses or impairs human rights and is linked to and perpetuates other harmful practices and human rights violations and that such violations have a disproportionately negative impact on women and girls, and underscoring the human rights obligations and commitments of States to promote and protect the human rights and fundamental freedoms of women and girls and to prevent and eliminate the practice of child, early and forced marriage,

Recognizing also that child, early and forced marriage prevents individuals from achieving their full potential and living their lives free from all forms of violence, including sexual and gender-based violence, and that it has wide-ranging and adverse consequences for the enjoyment of human rights, such as the right to education and the right to the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, including sexual and reproductive health, and that every girl and woman at risk of or affected by these practices must have equal access to quality education, counselling, shelter, social services, including social protection programmes, childcare and legal services, and psychological, sexual and reproductive health-care services,

Recognizing further the recent progress made globally towards ending child, early and forced marriage, including a decrease in the proportion of girls who were married before age 18 in the past decade, from one in four to approximately one in five, and noting further that, despite this global trend, the prevalence of child, early and forced marriage and adolescent marriage remains high in some regions,

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[9] A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

[10] *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5–13 September 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[11] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4–15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[12] Resolution 70/1.

[13] A/73/257.

[14] A/HRC/35/5.

Expressing concern that the pace of change is not sufficient to eliminate child, early and forced marriage by 2030 and that, in some countries and contexts, rates are rising and that, without further acceleration, an additional 150 million girls under 18 years of age will be married by 2030,

Recognizing that, in many contexts, the practice of child, early and forced marriage can take the form of informal unions, cohabitation or other arrangements that are not formalized, registered or recognized by a religious or State authority and that constitute similarly harmful practices that violate, abuse or impair human rights and are linked to and perpetuate other harmful practices and human rights abuses, that these practices should be addressed in the context of the response to child, early and forced marriage and that these informal unions and other informal arrangements present particular challenges that would be alleviated by the identification of and the gathering of data on informal unions and marriage ceremonies without registration and require particular responses for the girls and women affected,

Expressing deep concern that deep-rooted gender inequalities and stereotypes, harmful practices, perceptions and customs, discriminatory laws, policies and norms, as well as ingrained social bias, impair the recognition, enjoyment and exercise of the human rights and fundamental freedoms of women, children and adolescents, as well as the empowerment of all women and girls, and are also root causes of child, early and forced marriage,

Recognizing that poverty, insecurity, early and/or unintended pregnancy and lack of education are also among the primary drivers of child, early and forced marriage, that armed conflict and humanitarian emergencies are among the exacerbating factors and that child, early and forced marriage remains common in rural areas and among the poorest communities, and recognizing that the immediate alleviation and eventual eradication of extreme poverty must remain a high priority for the international community,

Recognizing also that, overall, harmful practices are themselves a form of violence against women and children and are often associated with serious forms of violence and that the persistence of child, early and forced marriage places women and children, in particular the girl child, at greater risk of being exposed to and encountering multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination and violence throughout their lives, including marital rape and sexual, physical and psychological violence from their partners, and that violence against women and girls is underrecognized and underreported and often coincides with impunity and a lack of accountability, particularly at the community level, which reflects discriminatory norms that reinforce the lower status of girls and adolescent girls in society,

Recognizing further that child, early and forced marriage undermines the autonomy and decision-making of women and girls in all aspects of their lives and that the empowerment of and investment in women and girls, as well as the strengthening of their voice, leadership and meaningful agency and participation in all decisions that affect them, are key factors in breaking the cycle of gender inequality and discrimination, violence and poverty and are critical, inter alia, for sustainable development, peace, security, democracy and inclusive economic growth and the achievement of all Sustainable Development Goals, including the eradication of extreme poverty,

Recognizing men and boys as strategic partners and allies alongside women and girls and that their meaningful engagement can contribute to transforming discriminatory social norms that perpetuate gender-based violence and child, early and forced marriage, ending this practice and achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls,

Recognizing also that families, communities and religious, traditional and community leaders play an essential role in transforming discriminatory social norms and confronting gender inequalities, and recognizing further that empowering girls, including already married girls, requires their active participation in decision-making processes and as agents of change in their own lives and communities, including through women's and girls' organizations with the active support and engagement of their parents, legal guardians, families and care providers, boys and men, as well as the wider community,

Recognizing further that addressing child, early and forced marriage includes supporting the specific needs of married girls, as well as women, affected by this practice and of their children, and underscoring the importance of removing the structural barriers that prevent access to justice, safe and quality education, counselling, shelter and other social services, psychological, sexual and reproductive health-care services, childcare, employment and vocational training, and the provision of adolescent-friendly health services, protection services and alternatives for those who choose to leave marriage,

Noting with concern that, despite gains in providing access to education, girls are still more likely than boys to remain excluded from primary and secondary education and that child, early and forced marriage disproportionally affects girls who have received little or no formal education and is itself a significant obstacle to educational opportunities and the development of employable skills for girls and young women, in particular girls who are forced to drop out of school owing to marriage, pregnancy, childbirth and/or childcare responsibilities, and recognizing that the attendance of girls at school can be affected by negative perceptions of menstruation and lack of means to maintain safe personal hygiene, such as water, sanitation and hygiene facilities in schools that meet the needs of girls, and that educational opportunities are directly related to the empowerment of women and girls, their employment and economic opportunities and their active participation in economic, social and cultural development, governance and decision-making,

Recognizing that child, early and forced marriage remains a serious threat to multiple aspects of the physical and psychological health of women and girls, including but not limited to their sexual and reproductive health, and that the practice exposes girls and women to greater risk of HIV and sexually transmitted infections, often leads to premature sexual relations and early and/or unintended pregnancy, increases the risk of obstetric fistula, high levels of maternal mortality and morbidity, and complications during pregnancy and childbirth, which often lead to disability, stillbirth and maternal death, particularly for young women and girls, which require appropriate prenatal and postnatal health care and services for mothers, and noting with concern that it is likely to have a long-term adverse impact on their physical and mental health and well-being,

Noting with deep concern that the incidence and risk of child, early and forced marriage is highly exacerbated during humanitarian emergencies, situations of forced displacement, armed conflict and natural disaster because of various factors, including insecurity, gender inequality, increased risks of sexual and gender-based violence, breakdown of the rule of law and State authority, misconceptions regarding the provision of protection through marriage, the use of child, early and forced marriage as a tactic in conflict, lack of access to continuous, quality education, the stigmatization of pregnancy outside marriage, the absence of family planning services, disruption of social networks and routines, increased poverty and the absence of livelihood opportunities,

Recognizing that preventing and ending child, early and forced marriage and supporting married girls and women affected by this harmful practice require

appropriate gender- and age-sensitive protection, prevention and response measures, as well as coordinated action by relevant stakeholders, with the full and meaningful participation of the women and girls affected, including in humanitarian emergencies and settings, with attention paid to the increased vulnerability of women and girls to sexual and gender-based violence and sexual exploitation in those situations, and that existing gaps in the collection and use of reliable data and evidence remain a major challenge for programming and informing appropriate measures and actions,

1. *Calls upon* States, with the participation of relevant stakeholders, including women and girls, men and boys, parents and other family members, teachers, religious, traditional and community leaders, civil society, human rights defenders, faith-based organizations, women's, human rights and youth-led organizations and groups, humanitarian actors, the media and the private sector, to develop and implement holistic, comprehensive, integrated and coordinated responses and strategies to prevent, respond to and eliminate child, early and forced marriage, to support girls and women who are at risk, already married girls, married, divorced and widowed women who were married as girls, women and girls fleeing child, early and forced marriage, and women and girls in early and forced informal unions, including through the strengthening of child protection systems, protection mechanisms such as safe shelters, access to justice and the sharing of best practices across borders;

2. *Also calls upon* States to adequately and equitably resource national and subnational action plans to end child, early and forced marriage and to ensure that these efforts are included in budget allocation across health, nutrition, protection, governance, education and other relevant sectors and that there is transparency, accountability and public participation in the budgeting process;

3. *Urges* States to enact, enforce, harmonize and uphold laws and policies aimed at preventing, responding to and ending child, early and forced marriage and protecting those at risk and, consistent with the fundamental principles of domestic law, to actively integrate these laws and policies into existing local or subnational legal frameworks and traditional legal systems, to ensure that marriage is entered into only with the informed, free and full consent of the intending spouses and that women and girls have equality with men and boys in all matters pertaining to marriage, divorce, child custody and the economic consequences of marriage and its dissolution;

4. *Also urges* States to enact, uphold, enforce and effectively monitor the implementation of laws concerning a minimum age of marriage and to progressively amend laws so that lower minimum ages of marriage and/or ages of majority are raised to 18, and to engage all relevant authorities to ensure that these laws are well known, disseminated, popularized and understood;

5. *Further urges* States to repeal or amend relevant laws and remove any provision that may enable, justify or lead to child, early or forced marriage, including provisions that enable perpetrators of rape, sexual abuse, sexual exploitation, abduction, trafficking in persons or modern slavery to escape prosecution and punishment by marrying their victims;

6. *Calls upon* States to strengthen their efforts to ensure the timely registration of births and marriages, especially for individuals living in rural and remote areas, including by identifying and removing all physical, administrative, procedural and any other barriers that impede access to registration and by providing, where lacking, mechanisms for the registration of customary and religious marriages, bearing in mind the vital importance of birth registration for the realization of the human rights of individuals, especially girls;

7. *Also calls upon* States to promote the meaningful participation of and active consultation with children and adolescents, especially girls, on all issues affecting them, and to raise awareness about their rights, including the negative impact of child, early and forced marriage, through safe spaces, forums and support networks, both offline and online, that provide girls, including already married girls, and boys with information, life skills and leadership skills training and opportunities, including catch-up and literacy education, remote learning opportunities and childcare, as needed, to be empowered, to express themselves, to participate meaningfully in all decisions that affect them and to become agents of change within their communities;

8. *Further calls upon* States to promote education about the harmful effects of child, early and forced marriage on the individual and wider society and the benefits of ending the harmful practice, including through open dialogue with all stakeholders, including girls and boys, women and men, religious, traditional and community leaders, parents, legal guardians and other family members, to empower all women and girls to make decisions about their own lives, work with local communities to combat negative social norms and gender stereotypes that condone child, early and forced marriage, and empower parents and communities to abandon the practice;

9. *Urges* Governments, with the collaboration of relevant stakeholders, to tackle poverty, including extreme poverty, lack of economic opportunities for women and girls, and entrenched economic incentives, as drivers of child, early and forced marriage, including by ensuring the rights of women and girls to inheritance and property, their equal access with men and boys to social protection, childcare services and direct financial services, to encourage girls to continue their education, to develop livelihood opportunities through access to technical and vocational education and training and life skills education, including financial literacy, and to promote the equal access of women to full and productive employment and decent work, as well as their equal political participation and rights to move freely at their own discretion and to inherit, own and control land and productive measures;

10. *Urges* States to ensure that the specific needs and human rights of already married girls and women affected by this harmful practice are addressed through targeted programmes that provide social services to protect them from sexual and gender-based violence, increase their decision-making power, make it easier for them to seek formal employment, increase their economic independence and financial literacy, enable them to gain access to education and lifelong training opportunities, ensure their equal access to health-care services and information and decrease their social isolation, including by establishing or strengthening childcare services and working with communities to change harmful gender norms;

11. *Calls upon* States to invest in quality education for every child in a safe environment, including through adequate financing, as well as to promote and protect the right of women and girls to equal access to education through enhanced emphasis on free, quality and continuous primary and secondary education, including catch-up and literacy education for those who have not received formal education, have left school early or were forced to leave school, including because of marriage, pregnancy, childbirth and/or childcare responsibilities, which empowers young women and girls to make informed decisions about their lives, employment, economic opportunities and health, including through scientifically accurate and age-appropriate comprehensive education that is relevant to cultural contexts, that provides adolescent girls and boys and young women and men, in and out of school, consistent with their evolving capacities, and with appropriate direction and guidance from parents and legal guardians, with the best interests of the child as their basic concern, information on sexual and reproductive health and HIV prevention, gender equality and the

empowerment of women, human rights, physical, psychological and pubertal development and power in relationships between women and men, to enable them to build self-esteem and foster informed decision-making, communication and risk reduction skills and to develop respectful relationships, in full partnership with young persons, parents, legal guardians, caregivers, educators and health-service providers, in order to contribute to ending child, early and forced marriage;

12. *Urges* States to prevent and eliminate child, early and forced marriage by removing barriers to education, including by ensuring that married girls and boys, pregnant girls and women and young parents continue to have access to schooling, improving access to quality formal education and skills development, especially for those living in remote or insecure areas, improving the safety of girls at and on the way to and from school, providing safe and adequate sanitation, including for menstrual hygiene management, and adopting laws and policies to prohibit, prevent and address school-related sexual and gender-based violence, and to hold perpetrators accountable, recognizing that education is one of the most effective ways to prevent and eliminate child, early and forced marriage and to help married women and girls make informed decisions about their lives;

13. *Also urges* States to intensify efforts to prevent and eliminate violence and sexual harassment against girls at and on the way to school by, inter alia, implementing effective activities in schools and communities to prevent and respond to violence, engaging men and boys, educating children from a young age regarding their human rights and the importance of treating all people with dignity and respect and by designing educational programmes and teaching materials that support gender equality, respectful relationships and non-violent behaviours;

14. *Encourages* States to adopt, as appropriate, and implement inclusive policies and programmes to promote technical and vocational training and skills development for women and girls, including those at risk of or survivors of child, early and forced marriage, so as to enable them to gain the knowledge, attitudes and skills that they need to fulfil their full potential;

15. *Urges* Governments to promote, respect and protect the right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health through the development and enforcement of policies and legal frameworks and the strengthening of health systems, including health information systems, that make universally accessible and available quality, gender-responsive, adolescent-friendly health services, sexual and reproductive health-care services, information and commodities, HIV and AIDS prevention, testing, treatment and care, mental health services and nutrition interventions and prevention, treatment of and care for obstetric fistula and other obstetric complications by providing the continuum of services, including family planning, prenatal and postnatal care, skilled birth attendance, emergency obstetric care and post-partum care;

16. *Also urges* Governments to promote and protect the human rights of all women and girls, including the right of women, and those girls who have been subjected to child, early and forced marriage, to have control over and decide freely and responsibly on matters related to their sexuality, including sexual and reproductive health, free of coercion, discrimination and violence, and to adopt and accelerate the implementation of laws, policies and programmes that protect and enable the enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms, including reproductive rights, in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development,[10] the Beijing Platform for Action[11] and the outcome documents of their review conferences;

17. *Urges* States to formulate or review, as needed, comprehensive, multidisciplinary and coordinated national and subnational plans, programmes or

strategies to eliminate all forms of discrimination and violence against women and girls, including domestic violence, that strengthen child protection systems, have dedicated resources, are widely disseminated and provide targets and timetables for implementation, as well as effective domestic enforcement procedures through the establishment of monitoring and evaluation mechanisms involving all parties concerned, including consultations with women's and girls' organizations;

18. *Also urges* States to ensure access to justice and accountability mechanisms and remedies for the effective implementation and enforcement of laws aimed at preventing and eliminating child, early and forced marriage, including by informing women, girls and boys about their rights under relevant laws, including by providing information on their rights in marriage and at its dissolution, improving legal infrastructure, removing all barriers to access to legal counselling, assistance and remedies, training law enforcement officers, the judiciary and professionals working with women and children and ensuring oversight of the handling of cases of child, early and forced marriage;

19. *Calls upon* States to develop, in consultation with women and, as appropriate, girls, and integrate into humanitarian responses, from the early stages of humanitarian emergencies, measures to address the increased vulnerability of women and girls to child, early and forced marriage and to protect women and girls from sexual and gender-based violence and exploitation during humanitarian emergencies, situations of forced displacement, armed conflict and natural disaster, including by ensuring their access to such services as health services and education, as well as strengthening monitoring and interventions to prevent, respond to and eliminate child, early and forced marriage in humanitarian settings;

20. *Encourages* relevant United Nations entities and agencies, regional and subregional organizations, civil society and other relevant actors and human rights mechanisms to continue to harmonize efforts to collaborate with Member States in developing and implementing strategies and policies at the national, regional and international levels to prevent and eliminate child, early and forced marriage, as well as to support those who were married as children;

21. *Encourages* relevant United Nations entities and agencies, regional and subregional organizations, the international financial institutions, civil society and other relevant actors and human rights mechanisms to continue to collaborate with Member States and national statistical agencies to strengthen data and reporting systems to monitor and publicly report on progress to end child, early and forced marriage based on evidence;

22. *Calls upon* States to improve the collection and use of quantitative, qualitative and comparable data on all forms of violence against women and girls, as well as harmful practices, disaggregated by sex, age, disability, civil status, race, ethnicity, migratory status, geographical location, socioeconomic status, education level and other key factors, including conflict, natural disaster and slow-onset environmental degradation, as appropriate, to enhance research and dissemination of evidence-based and good practices relating to the prevention and elimination of child, early and forced marriage and to strengthen monitoring and impact assessment of existing policies and programmes, including through the use of information and communications technology as a means of ensuring their effectiveness and implementation;

23. *Encourages* Governments to include information on progress towards eliminating child, early and forced marriage and on any best practices and implementation efforts in their national reports to relevant international treaty bodies and the universal periodic review and within the national voluntary reviews conducted through the high-level political forum on sustainable development;

24. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a comprehensive report to the General Assembly, before the end of its seventy-fourth session, on progress towards ending child, early and forced marriage worldwide, best practices for programmes aimed at ending the practice and supporting already married girls and women affected by this practice, including programmes to empower girls and women, and gaps in funding, research and data collection, dissemination and monitoring, using information provided by Member States, United Nations bodies, agencies, funds and programmes, civil society and other relevant stakeholders;

25. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to convene a high-level meeting on child, early and forced marriage on the margins of the activities to commemorate the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women, with a particular emphasis on high-prevalence countries, best practices for programmes aimed at ending the practice and supporting already married girls and women affected by this practice, and gaps in funding, research and data collection, dissemination and monitoring;

26. *Decides* to consider the issue of child, early and forced marriage at its seventy-fifth session under the item entitled "Promotion and protection of the rights of children", taking into account the multifaceted and worldwide nature of this issue.